

Arafat wants peace talks to resume

CAIRO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Wednesday he wanted peace talks with Israel to resume but a crisis over 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon had to be resolved first. Mr. Arafat stopped over at Cairo airport and met Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz at the same time as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was making new proposals on the eve of the peace negotiations but I call for the removal of the obstacles in the way of the Palestinian delegation so they can attend these negotiations," Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told reporters. He said Israel had to abide by United Nations Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the immediate return of the evictees. But he appeared to hint at some flexibility. Asked whether he would support a staged return of the evictees, Mr. Arafat said: "What matters to us is the principle of expulsion. If Israel does not accept the principle of expulsion, this principle will remain a sword suspended over the Palestinian negotiating delegation. I hope that Christopher will succeed in convincing (Israel) to remove the obstacles blocking the peace process."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

AIR FRANCE TAKES YOU TO NEW YORK AT TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND.

If your next destination is New York buy an Air France first class ticket and experience flying at twice the speed of sound.

For more information:
call 666055
or your travel agent.

AIR FRANCE
ALL THE WORLD OF IT

Volume 17 Number 5243

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25-26, 1993, RAMADAN 4-5, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Freeze orders search or arms-laden ship

ATHENS (R) — Greece said Wednesday it had information that a Greek-flag ship was carrying Serbian arms to Somalia in violation of a U.N. ban. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said an investigation had been ordered into the incident. His statement came a day after the New York Times quoted U.S. officials as saying the shipment was significant because it indicated the Serbs had an abundance of arms despite a U.N. ban on trade with Serbia. "Our information is the ship sailed from Serbia and is heading for Mombasa in Kenya. We have ordered an investigation and instructed our embassy in Nairobi to look into the matter," the spokesman said.

Saddam appoints his brother as adviser

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein appointed his half brother Barzan Ibrahim Al Fikri a political adviser with the rank of a minister, Baghdad newspapers said Wednesday. Barzan Ibrahim Al Fikri shall be appointed a political adviser to the president of the republic with a rank and salary of a minister. The newspaper quoted a presidential decree as saying, Mr. Barzan, a former Iraqi intelligence chief and Iraq's U.N. envoy in Geneva, is viewed here as a reformist. He recently published several articles in the official press urging greater individual and political freedoms. His appointment brings the number of President Saddam's advisers to eight.

Mystery bomb drops in a Tehran street

TICOSIA (AP) — A mystery bomb has dropped out of the sky in a busy Tehran street, but didn't explode, an Iranian newspaper reported Wednesday. The incident Monday panicked pedestrians in Jowhri Street, but caused no injuries, the Farsi-language daily said. It said "the bomb appeared to have fallen from a plane." It did not suggest an attack by enemy aircraft. Bomb disposal experts defused the device, the report said without specifying its type.

Jerides will attend peace talks

TICOSIA (R) — President-elect Jafar Jerides of Cyprus said Wednesday he would attend U.N.-sponsored talks on ending the 18-year division of the island, possibly in April. "When the time comes we will go the talk. We have never refused to talk," Mr. Jerides said after meeting outgoing President George Vassou. "I have said that I would like to see a short postponement because I cannot get up and go as soon as I assume office," Mr. Jerides, due to be sworn in Sunday, was commenting on Wednesday's call by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to attend the next round of talks chaired by the U.N. secretary-general, initially scheduled for next month.

Iraq to return 20 tanks to Kuwait

UWAIT (AP) — Kuwait expects Iraq next month to return 20 tanks taken from the emirate during the seven-month Iraqi occupation, a high-ranking Kuwaiti official said Wednesday. Kuwaiti Majid Al Shabane, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, told the state-run Kuwait News Agency that the tanks were due back in Kuwait in March. Mr. Shabane did not give a date or specify the kind of tanks involved, but the Kuwaiti army of British-made Chieftain and M1A1 tanks before the August 1990 invasion.

Budget

AR & VAN LEASING
TEL. 698 131

Palestinians non-committal after receiving Christopher's proposal

U.S. envoy views occupied lands, leaves Mideast today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made proposals Wednesday for solving the problem of Palestinian expellees that has stalled Middle East peace talks.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said it was too soon to tell if Palestinians would return to the talks, frozen since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians in December.

But, while cautioning against high expectations, she told reporters Mr. Christopher's proposals made during a two-hour meeting were "worth looking at."

"The proposals came up from both sides," Dr. Ashrawi said. "But they are not final. They are tentative and as I said they are worth looking into and pursuing."

"I must say that there were several ideas raised. There were several proposals made that we decided are worth thinking about and pursuing, and we will be discussing and relaying these ideas and let's hope that we will be able to come up with something new," she said.

Officials close to the discussions had said it was far from clear if a solution would be found to the dispute during Mr. Christopher's first trip to the Middle East, which ends Thursday.

The officials, who did not want to be identified or quoted directly, were busy Tuesday lowering expectations that Mr. Chris-

topher would close his visit with a firm date for a renewal of negotiations.

All sides appeared eager to return to the bargaining table and the officials said chances remained good that talks could resume by mid-April, after the fasting month of Ramadan and the Jewish Passover festival.

They said it was six or seven weeks for the sides to engage in quiet diplomatic, perhaps undertake some story actions to ease the back to negotiations.

Yet, in public, a side seemed willing to budge.

Dr. Ashrawi refused to answer when asked if the Palestinians would go to Washington.

"It's too soon to tell... we had a very business-like, a very serious, a very detailed meeting, we discussed very basic issues pertaining to the deportations, to the peace process," she said.

After the meeting Mr. Christopher left for final talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Christopher said later he hoped the peace talks would resume soon.

Mr. Christopher told a joint news conference with Mr. Rabin that there were still obstacles to overcome. But he hoped the problem of the evictees in South Lebanon could be solved.

"I think we made progress in explaining the situation with respect to the deportees indicating that a process is under way which

will resolve that issue and without being able to establish any timetable. I'll tell you we are going to be working on this problem over the next several days and weeks and I hope that there will be an early resumption of the peace talks," Mr. Christopher said.

"I leave the Middle East hopeful but cognizant that there still are obstacles, obstacles that will have to be overcome," Mr. Christopher said.

Asked if Israel could be forced to make further "gestures," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio: "I don't believe so. I don't believe there is a need for it."

"In my estimation he (Christopher) will get to the purposeful matters with the Palestinians only today and Israel doesn't have to gesture desperately needlessly," he told army radio.

Israeli officials said Mr. Rabin would not announce further steps to return the evictees but might speed up a judicial review of each case so some could return early. He has offered to let 101 return at once and the rest by year's end.

Palestinians and evictees themselves have rejected the offer, demanding a speedy return of all the remaining 396 exiles in Lebanon. Israel says the men support Islamic fundamentalist groups who killed Israelis.

Mr. Christopher flies to Geneva Thursday to meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and from there to Brussels for a North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-

tion (NATO) foreign ministers meeting before returning to Washington.

Dr. Ashrawi said Tuesday the delegates presented Mr. Christopher with a letter from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in line with the delegates' hopes that Washington would renew its suspended dialogue with the PLO.

The delegates also asked Mr. Christopher to press Israel to stop using live ammunition against Palestinian protesters, end the demolition of houses as punishment and lift economic restrictions on residents of the occupied territories.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian human rights group accused the Israeli government of a growing pattern of human rights abuses. It noted the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians was the largest mass expulsion since Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war.

The Palestine Human Rights Information also criticized Israel's army for damaging and destroying Palestinian homes with artillery as a way to flush out suspected activists.

Dr. Ashrawi said the delegates told Mr. Christopher that they were committed to the peace process but could not return to the talks now because of deep opposition from a Palestinian public angered by Israel's expulsions.

(Continued on page 5)

Ortega heads for Baghdad after meeting with King

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

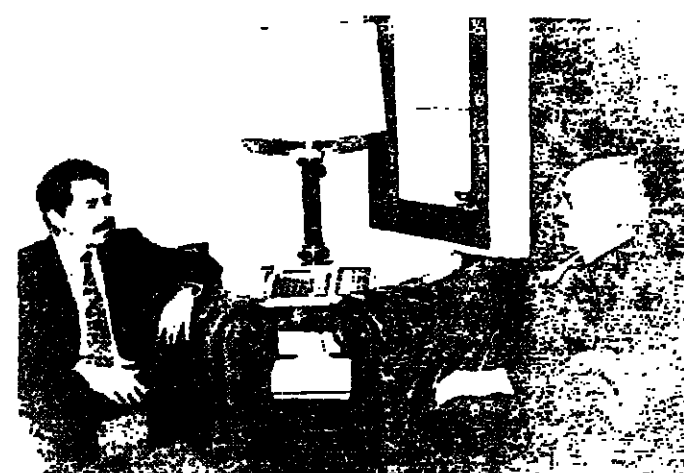
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Wednesday held talks on the Middle East situation, the latest developments in the international scene and Third World issues.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Ortega also reviewed means to enhance democracy and human rights.

Mr. Ortega, who led the Marxist-oriented Sandinista movement in Nicaragua which overthrew Anastasio Somoza in 1979, left for Iraq shortly after the meeting.

Before his departure, Mr. Ortega told the Jordan Times that he also discussed with the King the situation in the Middle East and the problems left behind by the Gulf crisis as well as other Third World issues and means to present them to the new administration in Washington.

"We reviewed in particular the problems of Iraq and the lingering crisis and how to resolve them



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday meets with former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (Petra photo)

quickly," Mr. Ortega said.

Mr. Ortega, who now leads the Nicaraguan opposition after losing presidential elections in February 1990, said it was essential that "Third World leaders get together with a view to combining

efforts and make Third World issues be understood by the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton."

Mr. Ortega, widely hailed as

(Continued on page 5)

Garang spells out his vision of peace

KAMPALA (R) — Rebel leader John Garang said Wednesday he had dissolved the top leadership of his Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) and called elections for a date before May 16.

"The SPLA political military high command is dissolved with immediate effect," Colonel Garang told a news conference in Kampala.

He also repeated his calls for the south's autonomy.

Col. Garang said his movement would be run by a 61-member general and field staff under James Wani Iga, one of his senior aides until a convention of the SPLA by May 16.

He made the announcement a day after meeting a Khartoum government delegation in the Ugandan capital. Col. Garang agreed at the talks, mediated by Uganda, to resume a Nigerian-sponsored roundtable which stalled last November.

Col. Garang, leader of the mainstream SPLA faction, called for the establishment of an interim period during which Sudan would be ruled as a confederation to tackle the contentious issues that have fuelled one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

"It is clear that the Khartoum government will not accept a secular constitution, while the SPLA and southern Sudan will not accept to be governed by strict Islamic law under any camouflage," he told reporters.

"If Sudan is to have some form of unity, then the only viable solution is to have two confederal states that are sovereign in their constitutions and security arrangements."

After the interim period the people of Sudan's south will exercise the right to self-determination in an internationally-supervised referendum as to whether they wish to remain in the confederation or opt for outright independence," Col. Garang said.

Khartoum has rejected autonomy for the south.

The SPLA has fought for a decade to end what it sees as the domination of southern Sudanese Christian and animist blacks by the Arabised Muslim north.

In 1972, a peace agreement granted the south regional autonomy. But relations between the north and south soured and the southerners launched a rebellion in May 1983, a few months before military leader Jaafar Numeiri imposed Islamic law.

The SPLA controls an area several times bigger than neighbouring Uganda but a government military offensive last year, and recent splits within the movement have weakened it. (See related stories on page 2).

Expellees reject temporary transfer to third country

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel said Wednesday they would reject a proposal for repatriating some of them and sending the rest to a third country.

"This is totally rejected. It is unthinkable as far as we are concerned," said the expellees' spokesman, Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi.

He was commenting on radio reports that a compromise was being worked out that would allow a third of the 396 evictees to return home and transfer the rest to Saudi Arabia or Morocco until a final solution to their plight is found.

"We have taken an oath to refuse to be returned piecemeal and to refuse to be transferred anywhere other than the land of Palestine," Dr. Rantisi said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was in Israel Wednesday as part of his Middle East tour to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Palestinians have said they would not take part in a new round of talks until Israel agrees to repatriate the expellees, whom it expelled Dec. 17 on charges of belonging to Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Lebanon refused to allow the

exiles to cross into government-held territory, saying it would not allow the country to become a "dumping ground" for Israel's castoffs.

The exiles have since been stranded in a makeshift tent camp between Lebanese and Israeli army lines.

Food and medical supplies have been regularly smuggled to them on mules and donkeys by Lebanon based Palestinians and sympathisers across mountain trails from nearby Lebanese villages.

Dr. Rantisi also Wednesday welcomed the refusal of Palestinian negotiators to go back to peace talks with Israel until the crisis over their expulsion was resolved but said more needed to be done.

"The stand of the Palestinian delegation is the minimum expected from a Palestinian in these circumstances," said Dr. Rantisi.

"Many other steps should follow and a total withdrawal (from the peace talks) is expected."

He said "after Israel has destroyed our homes and shelled our kids, it is justified to stop going to any peace negotiation with Israel."

(Continued on page 5)

Mulroney resigns

OTTAWA (Agencies) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced his resignation Wednesday in a letter to a Conservative Party leader, Canadian Press reported.

The 53-year-old Conservative Party leader announced his decision in a letter to Gerry St. Germain, president of the Conservative Party that Mr. Mulroney has led since 1983.

"It is appropriate now for me to step aside. It is time for the party to elect a new leader," Mr. Mulroney said in the letter quoted by the news agency.

"After almost 10 years as party leader and 8-1/2 as prime minister, it is appropriate now for me to step aside," he said.

"It is time for the party to elect a new leader who will become Canada's 19th prime minister," Mr. Mulroney said in the letter released by his office as he made the announcement to his party caucus.

Conservative Party politicians said Mr. Mulroney's successor will be picked at a leadership convention in mid-June, leading to a general election before the end of the year.

The main contenders to succeed Mr. Mulroney are defence



Brian Mulroney

Minister Kim Campbell, Trade Minister Michael Wilson, Communications Minister Perrin Beatty and Environment Minister Jean Charest.

"I expect a mid-June leadership convention to give a new leader time to get their feet, leading up to an early autumn election," New Brunswick Member of Parliament Bob Corbett told reporters.

Uncertainty over Mr. Mulroney's future has existed ever since the defeat in an October referendum of his government's proposals for constitutional reform aimed at solving the separatist dispute in French-speaking

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. said to turn down Iraqi offer to UNRWA

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations has informed the Palestinians that it could not accept an Iraqi offer to make up for the deficit in the budget of the main agency that helps Palestinian refugees saying the proposal could not be entertained outside the framework of Security Council resolutions already issued on Iraqi oil sales, informed sources said Wednesday.

"The U.N. secretariat has notified the Palestinian observer (at the world body) that the proposal is not acceptable," said one source.

The source added that the conclusion was made after informal consultations between the secretary-general, Boutros Ghali, and members of the Security Council.

"The proposal was not formally tabled since there was no legal base to it," said a diplomatic source. "The main question was over the context of the Iraqi offer and the Iraqis were not exactly very forthcoming in this regard," said the source.

"They alternated between indicating that the \$50 million offer was independent and saying it could be part of U.N.-supervised oil exports envisaged under (Security Council resolutions) 706 and 712," the diplomat told the Jordan Times.

According to another diplomat, the Iraqi offer, made by President Saddam Hussein to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat early this month, was seen "aimed at circumventing" resolution 706 and 712 — which call for a one-time Iraqi oil sale worth \$1.6 billion under U.N.

supervision to pay for U.N. costs related to the Gulf war, reparations to victims of the war and buy food and medicine for the people of Iraq.

The Iraqi proposal was made after the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees reported a budget deficit in its operations which offer assistance to Palestine refugees living in the occupied territories, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Baghdad has not made any official comment on the issue and its studious silence was interpreted by most analysts as waiting for the West, particularly Washington, to respond to the proposal.

International sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait ban all Iraqi exports, including oil, the country's mainstay revenue. Resolutions 706 and 712

were adopted after Iraq complained that it did not have funds to buy food and medicine for its people. But Baghdad rejected the resolutions saying they meant violating Iraqi sovereignty and market freedom.

Several rounds of talks between U.N. and Iraqi representatives on the issue produced little result and the proposal appeared to have been all but shelved until the latest gesture by President Saddam refocused attention on 706 and 712.

Following the deadlock in talks on implementing the resolutions, the Security Council moved to set up a new fund made up of proceeds from Iraqi oil funds frozen abroad in line with the sanctions. This fund, to which Saudi Arabia

(Continued on page 5)

After completion of its renovation programme

PALESTINE HOSPITAL

Announces the re-opening of its

Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

For further information
contact call 664171/2/3/4
664196/7

World pressure on Sudan produces policy changes

By Paul Eadie
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Months of world pressure on Sudan Islamic government over human rights, its treatment of Christians and alleged support for Muslim militant groups have begun to force it to make concessions.

The government agreed in December to improve access for relief supplies and promised to donate all the grain needed for food aid for 1993.

It also allowed the pope to visit Khartoum this month and offered new peace talks to rebels in the south.

Diplomats, aid workers and church leaders are still cautious, saying the government has been promising more than it has delivered.

They suspect Islamic radicals still dream of converting the pagan and Christian south to Islam and promoting Islamic revolutions elsewhere in Africa and the Middle East.

But they believe that economic sanctions, U.N. condemnation of human rights abuses and government fears that the West might send an army to Sudan as it did to Somalia to guarantee the distribution of relief supplies have produced valuable results.

"There has been a long period of pressure on this government from all sides, from international media, from the donors, from the Pope. I think we have benefited from this pressure," one aid official said.

"The government has also understood that it made some mistakes in becoming so isolated."

A European diplomat said the decisive factors were economic. Most previous Sudanese governments since independence from Britain in 1956 were

brought down by street protests about economic problems.

Disturbances were reported in three towns in recent weeks. The most serious was in Gedaref, 350 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, where demonstrators protested last month about bread prices and attacked men in beards who looked like Islamic fundamentalists, the diplomat said. Inflation has soared towards 150 per cent a year since Sudan's free-market finance minister, Abdul Rahim Hamdi, began a risky programme of economic reforms a year ago which cut subsidies on basic commodities and floated the Sudanese pound.

In addition, the diplomat said, Saudi Arabia had banned imports of Sudanese agricultural products in protest at the government's radical direction, cutting off Sudan's main means of earning foreign currency. Its biggest export is sorghum and its chief market is Saudi Arabia.

The European Community (EC) denied Sudan preferential tariffs given to other Third World countries. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank refused to work with Sudan because it has stopped repaying its foreign debts of more than \$16 billion.

At the same time, the diplomat said Iran was demanding cash payments for oil supplies to Sudan despite its sympathy for the government.

"For the moment the more worldly and reasonable side of the government seems to have the upper hand over the hardliners," the aid official said.

Trying to make a structural adjustment of this size without any foreign assistance at all is like trying to do a triple vault without a net. The last thing they want is have bad marks from donors or the U.N."

Diplomats and aid workers said the government had realised the full extent of its isolation in December, when the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to condemn Sudan for human rights abuses including summary executions and torture.

Not one African or Arab country defended Khartoum. The diplomat judged that under this economic and political pressure, the government's current attempts to resume peace talks with the rebels were probably genuine.

The civil war has killed 500,000 people and made 4.5 million homeless over the last 10 years.

"If they want access to loans and grants then the conditions are clear: solve the southern problem, sort out human rights and sign a deal with the IMF. They know very well that these are the rules of the game so I think they will negotiate seriously," he said.

The Catholic Church is more sceptical about promises to end what Christians see as harassment and discrimination.

Pope John Paul's nine-hour visit on Feb. 10 went smoothly. Tens of thousands of jubilant Christians lined Khartoum's streets and packed an open-air mass, the biggest public gathering since the 1989 coup.

The authorities released a priest arrested last July in the southern capital of Juba and accused of hiding a radio transmitter for the rebels.

But three days after the Pope's visit, church sources said authorities made a new attempt to impose the veil on girls at a Catholic school, threatening to close it down if it did not comply.

"There are a lot of good words. We must see if any deeds will follow," a senior Catholic figure said.



SETTLERS DEMONSTRATE: Israeli settlers in the occupied Golan Heights stage a demonstration Tuesday against relinquishing the Heights to Syria for peace during a visit to Jerusalem of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (AFP photo)

U.S. to review Sudan policy; envoy to tour rebel regions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's administration is reviewing policies towards Sudan, hoping to ease the agony of hordes of starving and displaced civil war victims in the country, a senior official said Tuesday.

"There is a high-level review of policies toward Sudan under way now in the U.S. government," said James Kunder, director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. "One of the issues to be considered is options to address issues of compliance with humanitarian needs" by the Sudanese government, he said.

Mr. Kunder also announced to a congressional panel that Don Peterson, the American ambassador to Sudan, and other U.S. officials plan a visit to rebel-held areas of south Sudan. Mr. Peterson was expected to arrive Saturday in the south, said a State Department source, talking on condition of anonymity.

Sudan has been described as "a second Somalia" in terms of hunger and suffering, but a major difference was described by Mr. Kunder and other speakers on a panel sponsored by the House of Representatives Select Committee on Hunger.

Somalia's hardships stem from chaos and government breakdown, while Sudan's ordeal resulted from "military action by an organized army" in the 10-year civil war, they said.

Resources and aid are available, they said, but the problem is access, they said, urging pressure to enforce Sudanese government pledges to let international relief agencies make deliveries.

Mr. Kunder said earlier this month that 1.7 million people

were displaced and several hundred thousand face possible starvation.

Republican Rep. Frank Wolf said he has sent Mr. Clinton a letter suggesting the president send a high level emissary such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. commander in the Gulf war, to both Khartoum, Sudan's capital, and southern areas.

Mr. Wolf said that during a recent trip to Sudan he saw bomb damage at the unfortified southern town of Kajo Kaji, near the Uganda border.

"There is little medical care, no health care, insufficient food to sustain life," Mr. Wolf said. "Failure to act soon will surely result in still more tragic loss of life and possibly the loss of an entire culture."

Mr. Kunder gave few details of the administration policy review but suggested there were efforts to get allies to join the United States in pressing Khartoum financially.

"I don't think it's much of a secret there are major economic policy reforms under way that will require financial support of the international community," he said. "I would certainly argue that one of the things to be looked at carefully is whether the international community supports putting money toward financial reforms as long as these kind of human rights and humanitarian problems exist."

Sudanese government forces in the past year have pushed back rebel forces while increasing their armed strength, Mr. Kunder said. U.S. authorities have been urging China and other reported suppliers to halt the flow of arms to Sudan.

Families of detained Swedes leave Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — The families of three Swedes serving long prison terms for entering Iraq illegally left Baghdad Wednesday after their plea for clemency for their loved ones went unanswered.

But government officials told the women to return to Iraq after one month for a final decision on their appeal to President Saddam Hussein, well-informed sources said. They insisted on not being identified further.

The Swedes — Christer Strömberg, Stefan Wihlborg and Leif Westerberg — were arrested after straying into Iraq across the poorly marked border last September. The men, who worked for the Ericsson telecommunications company in Kuwait, have been sentenced to seven years in prison each.

During their week-long stay in Iraq, their families were allowed to visit them three times at Iraq's main Abu Ghraib prison.

Mr. Wihlborg's mother, Kajsa Wihlborg, Mr. Strömberg's wife, Majja-Lisa Strömberg, and Westerberg's wife Maria Westerberg and their daughter left by road for Amman in two cars. The 1,000-kilometre desert highway is Iraq's only link with the outside world because international sanctions keep its main travel facilities closed.

"We came with hope in our heart... we are returning with the same hope in our heart," Mrs. Wihlborg said late Tuesday, after the families returned from their last visit to the prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Book says 'Carlos the Jackal' living in Syria

LONDON (AP) — The Venezuelan assassin nicknamed Carlos the Jackal is now a drug and gun dealer in Syria with the alias Michel Assaf, says a book published Wednesday.

"To the Ends of the Earth" recounts the eight-year search by author David Yallop for the world's most wanted man.

Contrary to the international perception of Carlos as a "super-terrorist," Yallop said information from nearly 500 people reveals "a would-be revolutionary of gross incompetence" who often killed in panic.

"Carlos began as an irrelevance to our fight, he remained one," Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), a founder of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's main guerrilla group Fatah, was quoted as saying.

Yallop, whose last book "In God's Name" claims Pope John Paul I was assassinated, interviewed people in more than 20 countries. They included members of Carlos' family, intelligence agents, German Red Army group member Peter Jurgen Boock, and Palestinian radical Abu Nidal.

Yallop said the trail to the real Carlos produced what he considers solid evidence that Iraq — not Libya — was behind the 1975 attack on Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) headquarters in Vienna in which 11 oil ministers were taken hostage.

According to Abu Iyad, interviewed in Tunis in 1987, Iraq was also behind the 1982 attempted murder of Israel's ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, Yallop said.

A "drunken" Abu Nidal, interviewed in Libya in 1980, confirmed that his Fatah-Revolutionary Council had carried out over 100 attacks and indicated a Syrian-sponsored attack on a U.S. target was imminent, says the author.

Yallop said he told an agent for Britain's M16 foreign intelligence agency of the impending attack. "To my astonishment the M16 agent was far more interested in Abu Nidal's drinking and eating habits," he wrote.

A few weeks later, on Dec. 21, 1983, a bomb over a Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

During his interviews, Yallop kept asking for help in finding Carlos, one of many aliases of Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, born in Venezuela on Oct. 12, 1949.

Carlos burst onto the world stage on June 27, 1975 after he opened fire in a Paris apartment, killing two French intelligence agents, injuring a third, and murdering his boss, Michel Moukharbel, who headed Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Previously, Carlos had botched a murder attempt on British Jewish leader Edward Sieff, bombed an Israeli bank in London and seized the French embassy in the Netherlands.

In the search for Carlos after the 1975 triple murder in Paris, a London apartment where he stashed weapons was searched and Frederick Forsyth's book "The Day of the Jackal" was spotted by a reporter. It did not belong to Carlos, but "the Jackal" became synonymous with the assassin.

Yallop said it is now time for the United States, Britain, France and other Western nations to demand Carlos' extradition from Syria.

The book published by Jonathan Cape costs £17.99 (\$26). A documentary on Yallop's search will be shown March 6. The book will be published in the United States later this year.

He said he finally met the man he is convinced is Carlos in Damascus in October 1989, where he answered personnel questions about family and friends.

Carlos lives with his wife, German revolutionary Magdalena Kopp, and their two children, posing as a Mexican businessman and working with Monzer Al Kassar whom intelligence agents describe as one of the world's leading drug dealers and arms merchants, Yallop said.

Last year, Carlos was sentenced to life imprisonment in France for the 1975 murders of the two French intelligence agents.

Yallop said it is now time for the United States, Britain, France and other Western nations to demand Carlos' extradition from Syria.

The book published by Jonathan Cape costs £17.99 (\$26). A documentary on Yallop's search will be shown March 6. The book will be published in the United States later this year.

U.N. document says Iran government has secret plan to destroy Baha'is

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran's Islamic leaders have approved a code of official discrimination against the country's largest religious minority, according to a secret document made public Tuesday.

The policy recommendation by the Supreme Revolutionary Council and President Hashemi Rafsanjani concludes that government dealings with the Baha'i community "must be in such a way that their progress and development are blocked."

It apparently was endorsed on an unknown date by Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, successor to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. According to an English translation of the document, he wrote at the bottom that it "seems sufficient."

The list of recommended policies, drawn up in 1991, was obtained last year by Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the special envoy for Iran of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and described in his report to the commission this month. It was made available to the Associated Press by a Baha'i spokesperson in Washington.

"This sinister blueprint confirms the calculated policy of Iran's highest-ranking officials to destroy the Baha'i community," said Firuz Kazemzadeh, a professor at Yale University who is spokesman for the 110,000 Baha'is in the United States.

Since the Islamic revolution which overthrew the Shah in 1979, more than 200 members of the 300,000-strong community of Baha'is in Iran have been executed, and thousands imprisoned. Baha'is have been fired from government posts, Baha'i religious institutions have been closed, and property of many Baha'is has been confiscated.

These measures were taken without apparent legal basis. The newly-disclosed document is the first indication of official policy towards the Baha'i faith which follows the teaching of a 19th century Iranian-born prophet and has five million adherents around the world. Basic tenets are that prophets of all great religions represent the same divine spirit and that all races and nations are one.

The teachings are considered blasphemous by Iran's fundamentalist Islamic leaders. Maltreatment of the Baha'is by Iran has brought widespread international condemnation.

According to the English translation of the Iranian document, the policy towards the Baha'is was drawn up on orders from Ayatollah Khamenei that a specific policy be devised "so that everyone will understand what should or should not be done."

"To the extent that it does not encourage them to be Baha'is it is permissible to provide for them the means for ordinary living in accordance with the general rights given to every Iranian citizen," it said.

But it orders: "Deny them any position of influence, such as in the educational sector, etc."

The policy orders that Baha'is can be employed or attend schools only if they do not identify themselves as Baha'is. "Preferably they should be enrolled in schools which have a strong and imposing (Islamic) religious ideology."

Crucially, the policy paper rules that Baha'i "political (espionage) activities must be dealt with according to appropriate government laws and policies."

"A plan must be devised to confront and destroy their cultural roots outside the country," it said.

The Baha'i headquarters is located where the faith's prophet, Baha'ullah, died 100 years ago near Haifa in what was Palestine and is now Israel. There are Baha'i organisations in more than 100 countries.

Reuters adds from Geneva: A U.N. investigator Tuesday accused Iran of executing 300 people last year, more than half of them for political reasons, and of routinely torturing prisoners.

Mr. Galindo Pohl, the U.N. Human Rights Commission's special representative on Iran, called urgently on Tehran to "drastically reduce" the number of executions and to ensure death sentences resulted from fair trials.

In a 58-page report, he also appealed to Iran to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to resume visits to criminal and political prisoners, halted in March 1992.

"By the end of 1992, 301 judicial executions had been recorded," Mr. Galindo Pohl wrote. "Of these, 164 may be attributed to political causes."

At least 117 executions concerned drug traffickers, he said. The investigator had reports of cruel treatment of prisoners who refused to submit to prison authorities' demands or who "do not confess what officials consider to be the truth."

Common methods of physical torture reportedly include suspension for long periods in contorted positions, burning with cigarettes, and most frequently, severe and repeated beating with cables or other instruments on the back and the soles of the feet," the report said.

Sahnoun urges probe into U.N. 'inaction'

LONDON (AP) — A former U.N. envoy to Somalia called Tuesday for an investigation into the United Nations' failure to intervene in the war-torn country immediately after the ouster of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991.

"Somebody should be accountable," said Mohammed Sahnoun, who resigned in October after being reprimanded by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for openly criticising the U.N. relief operation as slow and inadequate.

"We knew there was a crisis. Unfortunately, there is no accountability in the United Nations," he told the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, which is holding hearings on the operation of the United Nations.

"We should know why we did not respond so we do not repeat the mistakes," he said.

Mr. Sahnoun said the U.N. Charter gives the secretary general the right to initiate action and he urged this role be strengthened so the United Nations can move quickly in emergencies.

The United Nations should have intervened in Somalia in 1988 when Siad Barre was still in power and civil war broke out in the north, he said.

But the Algerian diplomat said the United Nations did not intervene until January 1992, a year after the government had collapsed and war and famine wracked the country.

Mr. Sahnoun arrived in Mogadishu in March 1992 and signed, an agreement with the warlords in early August to allow 500 U.N. troops from Pakistan to gear relief shipments — but the troops did not arrive until early October.

"The delay was very critical," he said. "Things change quickly

in Somalia. ... If the Pakistani troops had come one week or 10 days after the agreement was signed, it would have made a big difference."

Speedy intervention by 500 U.N. troops, he said, "might have made the later intervention of 25,000 or 30,000 troops unnecessary."

Mr. Sahnoun noted that U.N. troops arrived in the Congo a week after deployment was authorised in 1991.

Mr. Sahnoun supported the U.S.-led military intervention in December to secure the country so relief agencies could distribute food and medicine to starving millions.

"There was a failure on the part of the U.N." to stop the "almost genocide" of farmers in southern Somalia whose land had been turned into a battlefield, he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	.....	PI at Horacle
17:45	.....	Les MAgnetes
18:15	.....	L'ocle des fars
18:30	.....	News in French
19:15	.....	Animats
19:30	.....	News in Hebrew
20:30	.....	News in Arabic
20:35	.....	Uncle Buck
21:10	.....	Forever Green
22:00	.....	News in English
22:30	.....	.....

Most of the week: "Alexander the Great"

PRAYER TIMES

06:00	.....	Fajr
06:25	.....	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:40	.....	Dhuhr
15:00	.....	'Asr
17:33	.....	Maghreb
18:50	.....	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellath
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637283

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623591

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel.
827981, 653325

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 828204 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will
be a chance for scattered showers.
Winds will be southeasterly moderate.
In Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and seas calm.

Amman	.....	5 / 18
Aqaba	.....	8 / 24
Doeira	.....	3 / 20
Jordan Valley	.....	7 / 23

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Al Jabali	.....	740740
Dr. Hanna Masour	.....	748364
Dr. Rameh Zaitoun	.....	889683
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	.....	827195
First pharmacy	.....	661912
Second pharmacy	.....	775336
Al Asma pharmacy	.....	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	.....	624672
Al Salama pharmacy	.....	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	.....	649945
Shamsi pharmacy	.....	637660
Najib pharmacy	.....	847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Al Jabali	.....	740740
Dr. Hanna Masour	.....	748364
Dr. Rameh Zaitoun	.....	889683
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	.....	827195
First pharmacy	.....	661912
Second pharmacy	.....	775336
Al Asma pharmacy	.....	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	.....	624672
Al Salama pharmacy	.....	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	.....	649945
Shamsi pharmacy	.....	637660
Najib pharmacy	.....	847632

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	.....	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	.....	630341
Rescue Police	.....	192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade	.....	891228
Blood Bank	.....	775121
Highway Police	.....	843402
Traffic Police	.....	843402
Public Security Department	.....	630321
Hotel Complaints	.....	625800
Price Complaints	.....	661176
Water and Sewerage	.....	658485
Complaints	.....	897467
Amman Municipality	.....	787111
Complaints	.....	121
Telephone Information	.....	010230
Overseas Calls	.....	623101
Repairs	.....	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	.....	661101
Jordan Television	.....	773111

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Farwa Hamdallah	.....	903644
Khalilpharmacy	.....	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	.....	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	.....	630341
Rescue Police	.....	192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade	.....	891228
Blood Bank	.....	775121
Highway Police	.....	843402
Traffic Police	.....	843402
Public Security Department	.....	630321
Hotel Complaints	.....	625800
Price Complaints	.....	661176
Water and Sewerage	.....	658485
Complaints	.....	897467
Amman Municipality	.....	787111
Complaints	.....	121
Telephone Information	.....	010230
Overseas Calls	.....	623101
Repairs	.....	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	.....	661101
Jordan Television	.....	773111

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Farwa Hamdallah	.....	903644
Khalilpharmacy	.....	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	.....	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	.....	630341
Rescue Police	.....	192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade	.....	891228
Blood Bank	.....	775121
Highway Police	.....	843402
Traffic Police	.....	843402
Public Security Department	.....	630321
Hotel Complaints	.....	625800
Price Complaints	.....	661176
Water and Sewerage	.....	658485
Complaints	.....	897467
Amman Municipality	.....	787111
Complaints	.....	121
Telephone Information	.....	010230
Overseas Calls	.....



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday addresses a meeting of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (Petra photo)

Crown Prince urges officials to improve poor districts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday urged Jordanian officials to continue to inspect the needs of poor families and underdeveloped districts in the Kingdom and seek to improve their conditions and solve their problems.

The Crown Prince had toured parts of Amman's poorest districts earlier this month, following an inspection tour of similar areas in the southern regions. He said he planned to resume such visits soon.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) during which he listened to a general report about the organization's projects and plans

presented by JHCO Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi. The JHCO has been providing relief supplies to Muslim countries in Asia, Africa and Europe in cooperation with the private sector, especially pharmaceutical companies which provide most of the drugs.

It is important that the JHCO pursue all efforts to project Jordan's humanitarian image abroad, said the Prince affirming the need to unify the country's humanitarian efforts to achieve better results.

Prince Hassan said Jordan was seeking to strengthen its ties with nations holding common interests. He said it would be advisable for the JHCO to coordinate its efforts with the Jordan Nation-

al Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

At the same time, the Prince urged the organization to try to reach all the poor areas in Jordan and implement comprehensive developmental schemes that can provide a decent living for poor families.

The meeting was attended by JHCO board members, Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki, Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Hani Al Mulki, the Commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force, Secretary General of the Ministry of Awqaf Ahmad Helayel, the Director of the RSS Strategic Studies Centre and JNRCS President Mohammad Hadid.

Statistics office to survey living standards with help from a Norwegian group

AMMAN (J.T.) — FAFO, a Norwegian-based research centre for applied science, dealing with economic social and cultural science, will help the Department of Statistics to conduct a study on the living standards of families in the Kingdom.

An agreement on the study was signed Wednesday by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and FAFO head T. Larsen.

The survey will investigate 6,000 households on their composition, the health and educational services they receive, the number of employed family members, and levels of nutrition, recreational and cultural activities exercised, Dr. Fariz said in a statement.

He added that the study was expected to yield results that would be of paramount importance to decision makers and planners of socio-economic development and said the results will be available to various international institutions and nations, as well as the World Bank, which offer assistance to the Kingdom.

According to Dr. Fariz, the results of the survey will be published in 22 months and will also be available to researchers and scholars.

The Norwegian centre normally offers consultancy services to governments, the World Bank and the United Nations in addition to nations wishing to promote their socio-economic development. Earlier this month a FAFO



Ziad Fariz

team visited Jordan and met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The team reviewed a working paper prepared by the Crown Prince on the concept of common security which advocates security not in terms of military or the absence of war, but rather ensuring economic, environmental, health, humanitarian and cultural security.



Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajeida Ra'ad, seen here planting one of many trees, members of the Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association and friends celebrated Arbor Day in the Scandinavian Forest situated on a mountain overlooking the Baqa Camp. The Scandinavian Forest was inaugurated by Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Sofia of Sweden on September 20, 1989 on their official visit to Jordan as guests of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The Baqa Forestry Department extended all necessary assistance and supplied over 300 trees that were planted Wednesday (File photo)

Japan to continue assistance to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda said his country, which has extended major financial and technical aid to Jordan, hopes to continue its assistance programme and will continue to grant soft loans and grants to help Jordan overcome the negative economic effects of the Gulf crisis.

In the wake of the Gulf war, Jordan signed an agreement in Tokyo whereby Japan will grant the Kingdom \$425 million in loans payable over 20 years with a 10-year grace period.

Paying tribute to Jordan's democratisation process, the ambassador said the Jordanian leadership has proved its determination to protect human rights and involve popular participation in Jordanian political life.

Mr. Ikeda underlined the importance of Jordan's role in the Mideast peace efforts at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

The ambassador, who spoke in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Japanese-Jordanian relations were very strong and continually witnessing progress in the economic and cultural fields.

He added that as Jordan abounds with tourist attractions, he hoped that concerned officials will direct their attention towards attracting Japanese tourists to visit the Kingdom, particularly he said, since the Japanese are among the world's most travelled people and are especially fond of archaeological and historical sites.

U.S. Marines kill 9 rioting Somalis

(Continued from page 1)

led Mogadishu's grey skies, streaked with orange flames of car-type barricades set up by the protesters and darkened fumes of billowing smoke.

Somali driver Abdi Aden Ibrahim tried to drive to the U.S. embassy but was blocked by hundreds of angry Aided supporters trying to tear down the building. He quoted Somalis there as saying at least six people had been gunned down by U.S. forces.

"Most of the people I spoke to said they saw six people being shot dead near the U.S. embassy compounds. The people were trying to storm the building," he said.

There was no independent confirmation of the reported deaths. "We don't want the Americans to leave," said Khalif Sheikh Mohammad, 30, standing next to overturned merchants' stalls and burning piles of debris. "We only want them to make justice."

Other protesters, however, yelled "America out of Somalia." The unrest appeared isolated in one area of the city, mostly along a road leading from the traffic circle to the former U.S. embassy,

Companies increased by 10% in 1992 — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — In 1992, the number of companies registered to conduct business in Jordan increased by 10 percent over 1991, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Companies Department Director Saeed Hiyasat.

A total of 4,556 companies with a confirmed declared capital of JD 162,624,459 were registered with the ministry in 1992, up from a total of 4,145 companies in the previous year.

Mr. Hiyasat said in a statement that of those companies 813 were industrial, 2,447 commercial, 19 agricultural, 177 contracting and 1,100 were service companies.

In 1992, the Ministry of Industry and Trade registered an additional 84 non-Jordanian companies of which 26 were Arab, 15 American, nine European and 34 from several other countries, Mr. Hiyasat said.

He maintained that these companies were attracted by the numerous privileges and exemptions granted to foreign companies investing in Jordan.

He added that eight of these companies were non-Jordanian firms which pledged to carry out vital development projects for the country. Mr. Hiyasat said the eight firms are from the Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Libya, South Korea, Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Seven of these foreign companies are public shareholding enterprises and have announced their shares on the Amman Financial Market.

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour said last November that Jordan was ready to respond favourably to investors wishing to establish businesses in the Kingdom.

shortly after the 1991 ouster by rebels of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, commander of U.S. forces in Somalia, Tuesday tried to placate Gen. Aided by ordering Gen. Morgan's militia to pull out of Kismayu by midnight on Thursday. But this did not appear to have any effect on the protesters.

Gen. Aided made no mention of the ultimatum given to Gen. Morgan.

"You have to defend your freedom, your honour, and don't allow yourselves to be under colonialism," he said to conclude his 15-minute message.

Gen. Aided demanded that Gen. Morgan's forces pull out of Kismayu and that U.S.-led forces arrest Gen. Morgan.

He also called for unspecified neutral troops to replace the American and Belgian forces in Kismayu, and he asked the U.N. Security Council to send a fact-finding delegation to the port city.

There was no immediate response from the U.S.-led forces, known as UNITAF, but helicopters dropped leaflets printed in red and blue telling Somalis of the ultimatum to Gen. Morgan and urging calm.

Government pricing policy comes under heavy fire by Lower House members

Deputies demand Parliament O.K. of hikes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Wednesday came under strong criticism over its pricing policy from members of the Lower House of Parliament who demanded that no extra price hikes be implemented without Parliament's approval.

"We demand that the government honour its constitutional commitment by refraining from raising prices except with the approval of Parliament and take measures to prevent any increases in the prices of food supplies," said Deputy Abdul Haliz Allawi.

Deputy Allawi, who spoke on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, demanded that the government instruct the Department of Statistics to conduct a "realistic and objective survey on prices of various goods and commodities compared with the individual income of various sectors of the Jordanian public in order to reveal the great disparities in income and the horrible situation of the poor."

"The Muslim Brotherhood also demands an overhauling of the country's taxation system and that a national conference be held to endorse a new policy in light of the present economic situation and the living standards of people," said Mr. Allawi.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc, he said, does not approve of the government's recent hikes on the price of bread and demands that no further hikes be made on any other items.

Referring to various other items that have witnessed unchecked hikes, Deputy Allawi said the government failed to deal with the sky-rocketing prices of clothes, auto spare parts, drugs, etc.

With the continuous rise in the cost of living, one can see that wages and salaries have been

over eroded by at least 50 percent, the deputy maintained. He said prices of services and certain commodities rose recently by 100 to 130 per cent.

Mr. Allawi said also that the government ought to resort to barter trading with other Arab countries.

The government's pricing policy was also under fire by deputies Husni Shiab, Issa Raimouni, Nader Thuheirat, Ahmad Abbadi, Hisham Sharari and Abdul Munem Abu Zant.

They all demanded that the government stem price hikes which they said were burdening the Jordanian public.

The deputies demanded that prices "be linked to those elements that determine them, like taxes and income."

Deputy Bassam Haddadin, who spoke on behalf of deputies Fakhri Kassar, Issa Mdanat, Mansour Murad, Theeb Marji and Abdul Karim Al Dughm, criticised a statement, delivered to the House by Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf on Feb. 17, over the pricing policy.

He said the minister discussed prices, but failed to link them to the government's economic, financial and monetary policies.

"The minister's statement to Parliament has ignored the hikes in prices of numerous foodstuffs and failed to mention increases in the prices of oil products, cement and charges on telephone calls," said Deputy Haddadin.

Mr. Haddadin concluded by accusing the government of trying to impose more burden on the poor sectors of the public in the course of the "notorious" economic restructuring programme.

In reply to these accusations, the Minister of Supply expressed astonishment at hearing demands for reducing food prices at a time when the deputies realise that it was they who had decided that the government reduce the subsidies on foodstuffs from JD 42

million in 1992 to JD 36 million this year.

Mr. Saqqaf said the ministry subsidises bread, sugar, rice and milk and continues to fix the prices of 36 other commodities, leaving the prices of other items in the market to be determined by the forces of supply and demand.

The government has been encouraging farmers to grow cereals and has been purchasing locally produced wheat, barley and maize at prices far higher than those on the world market, said the minister.

Mr. Saqqaf said the government continues its policy of subsidising animal feed to boost livestock farming and allows farmers to export red meat but at the same time it charges JD3.5 on each head of exported sheep in order to regain the amount of subsidy on animal feed.

Referring to the increases in the price of bread, the minister said the government had to resort to this measure because of the lack of any controls to ensure the sale of subsidised bread to those who are really in need of the subsidy.

Earlier the House heard a speech from Deputy Mohammad Alawneh who outlined a method that depends wholly on farming, which he claimed would help Jordan attain self-sufficiency in food.

He said unemployment would be solved if the government offered each needy household up to JD3,000 to produce food which would cost the government JD150 million in loans.

Mr. Alawneh said the government could end poverty by distributing the JD34 million, which it has allocated for subsidies, to 7,500 needy families at the rate of JD1,200 annually and must impose the Zakat Fund on all Muslims to collect up to JD300 million with which it can finance various projects.



Ministry announces JD 20 m health management project to finish by the year 2000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday announced its approval of a JD 20 million health management project to be completed in five stages by the year 2000.

The World Bank will offer Jordan a \$20 million loan payable over 12 years, with a five-year grace period to help it carry out this vital project, according to Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

Dr. Touqan said the Jordanian government will contribute JD 5 million to the project, and other nations and organisations will provide JD 1 million worth of technical assistance.

He said that in the first stage the focus will be on raising the level of primary health care services. He explained that doctors and nurses employed at health centres will receive training in family medicine and mother and

child health care. He added that other hospital staff including those in the financial and computer sections, will also receive training.

The first stage, according to Dr. Touqan, also entails choosing one Jordanian hospital to serve as the pioneer in the application of a decentralised system, which would be generalised later on. Al Hussein Hospital in Salt was selected for the experiment.

Dr. Touqan said the second stage involves establishing an annex to the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and providing it with new equipment; and planning a framework to develop Al Bashir Hospital with a view to improving its emergency services.

Similar improvements will be introduced to five other hospitals in Jordan.

The plan also provides for the

creation of two regional centres for maintenance of medical equipment as well as training the technicians who would carry out the work.

Dr. Touqan said stage three aims to reorganise the Ministry of Health to improve planning and management. He said under the plan the Kingdom will be divided into three zones to facilitate work.

The fourth stage of the health management project envisages studies on developing sources of revenue to reduce dependence on the Government's annual budget and the treasury, Dr. Touqan explained.

In conclusion, he said the fifth stage will involve conducting two studies: one on diseases and the other on the prospect of implementing a national health service.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second

Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Baladunz Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohamed Fradi and Jaber Mejboul at Alia Art Gallery.

MUSICAL THEATRE

★ Musical entitled "Mane" at 2 p.m. at the American Centre.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Estonia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Estonian President Arnold Ruutel congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Estonia's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Ruutel good health and happiness and the Estonian people further progress and prosperity.

Ministry demands valid work permits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour Wednesday urged all employers and public and private sector institutions employing foreign workers to make sure that their foreign employees are carrying valid working permits. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said that the Ministry is currently working seriously on organising the Jordanian labour market and the foreign workforce in Jordan. The ministry, he said, has stepped up its inspection operations of the various institutions in its search for illegal workers.

Madaba officials discuss education

MADABA (Petra) — Director of the Madaba Education Department Abdullah Al Lawama Wednesday met with educational supervisors and inspectors and discussed with them means to improve the educational level of students in the governorate. Mr. Lawama told the gathering that an ad hoc team of specialists was formed to visit schools in the district and study their educational problems.

Balqa health centres reach 53

AMMAN (Petra) — The Balqa Health Department has opened six new health centres in the governorate, bringing the number of health centres to 53, department director Samir Al Awamleh said Wednesday. He said of the total number of health centres, two are comprehensive, 19 primary, 14 secondary, 18 child and mother care centres, 10 dental clinics and seven laboratories. Dr. Awamleh said there were 192,966 citizens in the governorate carrying medical care cards entitling them to health care at these centres. The number constitutes 99 per cent of the governorate population, he said.

JD1.3m to compensate Ajloun olive farmers

AJLOUN (Petra) — The Ajloun Chapter of the Agricultural Credit Corporation has allocated JD1.3 million to compensate farmers for losses they incurred as a result of the frost and snowstorms which caused damage to olive trees in the district.

JNRCS aids needy families

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Wednesday started distributing in-kind assistance to needy families in various parts of the country. The assistance includes clothes and food supplies, such as sugar, rice, flour and ghee. JNRCS President Mohammad Al Hadid Wednesday distributed clothes, presents and toys to students at Al Amal (hope) School for the Deaf in Al Quweisheh area. He also distributed food supplies and blankets to the boarding students.

VTC head, industrialists meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Wednesday met with owners of factories at the Amman industrial city and discussed with them the engineers training programme carried out by the VTC in cooperation with the Jordan Engineers Association. The VTC director reviewed the goals of the programme, saying it aims to bridge the gap between the new engineers capabilities and the needs of the industrial firms by providing the engineers with the needed experience. The meeting was attended by the director general of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation.

Computer course ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 20 trainees graduated Wednesday from a programming course held at the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Computer Technology, Training and Industrial Studies Centre. The five-month course aimed at enhancing the participants' knowledge of designing and programming information systems by the use of database.

Musical course for handicapped organised

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Tuesday started a musical course for the physically handicapped. A total of 20 trainees from the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and the Al Mustakbal Club for the Physically Handicapped are participating in the programme.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1978.

الصحف الجريدة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1978.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL RAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 667171 JORDAN JO

Facsimile: 667142

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Missing tribunal is found

THE U.N. Security Council's decision Monday to establish an international tribunal on war crimes is an important development in the quest for more advanced standards on human rights, and as such it can only be welcome.

It is true that the initiative was taken only in the aftermath of the war crimes and crimes against humanity that were committed in former Yugoslavia, especially those committed by Serbian forces against Bosnian Muslims and Croats, and that in concept it is modeled around the Nuremberg precedent, established at the end of World War II to try Nazi war criminals. But unlike the Nuremberg Tribunal that was established by the victors in that war, the just-created body is international in nature, as it is founded by the consent of nations to apprehend and punish perpetrators of humanitarian law violations throughout the world, and its purview and jurisdiction will extend to the far reaches of the globe where untold number of atrocities still occur.

The infrastructure of the new international institution has yet to be erected and its composition formed. Presumably, however, it will be manned by eminent international jurists who are truly independent and accountable only to international law. The selection of the men and women who will serve on its bench must be most carefully undertaken, whether by election or appointment.

What remains to be done is the elucidation of the thoughts of the members of the Security Council on how to enforce the findings and judgments of the court. Since the novel institution is a feature of the Security Council, it would seem right to anticipate the council's own involvement in the implementation procedure of its verdicts. Should this turn out to be the case, the new system for trying war criminals would indeed offer realistic hope for ending the phenomenon of crimes against humanity and war crimes anywhere in the world.

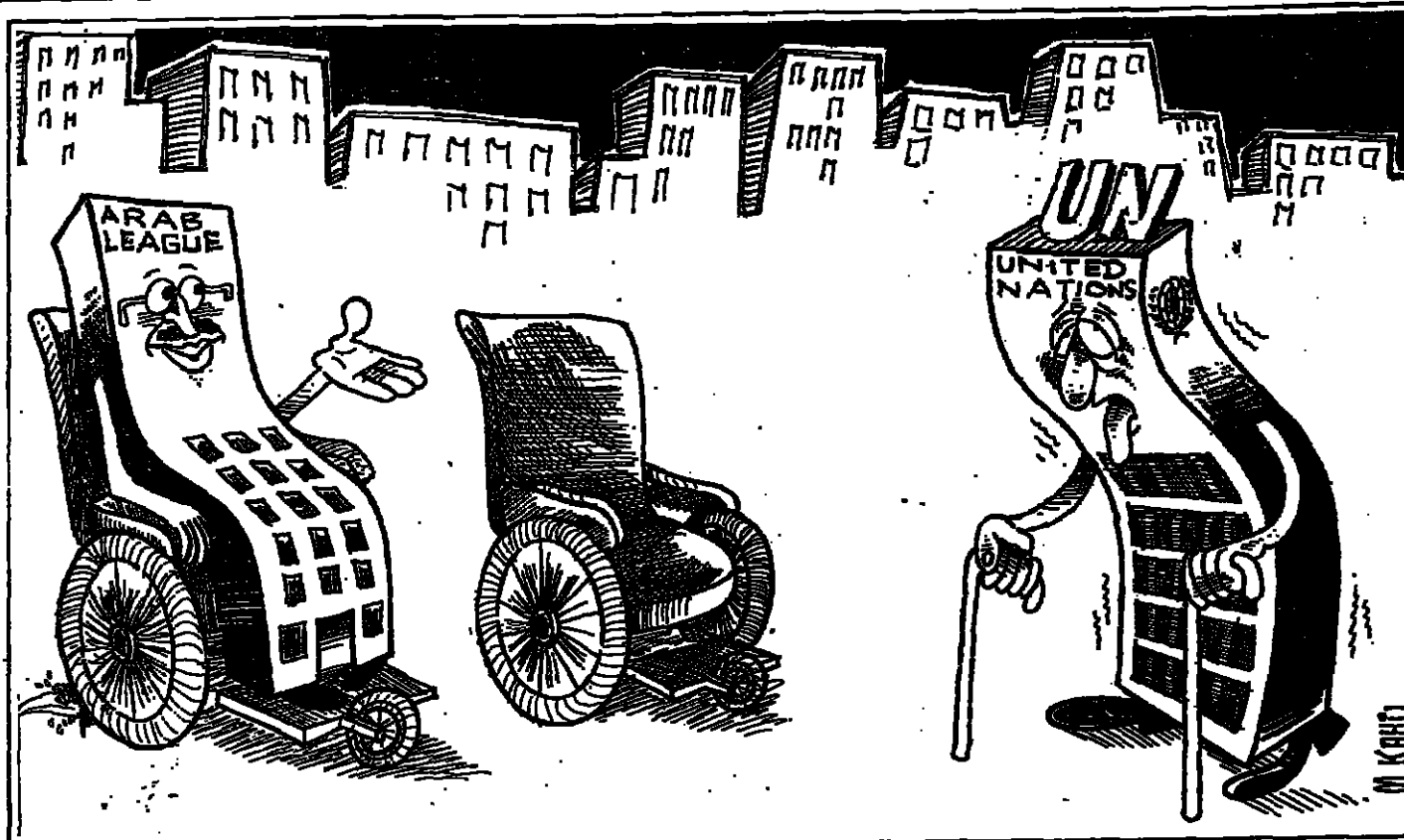
The world scene is full of cases pertaining to genocide and atrocities and up to this point in time there has not been an effective machinery to address this problem. Now the international community has finally what it always needed to end the misery and the epidemic of flooding humanitarian law.

There remains an additional challenge before the new international body that has to be discussed and met. Without the benefit of precise data, the prosecution of any person charged with war crimes would not withstand the scrutiny of the law. The documentation of all pertinent cases should not be too hard, however, given the determination of the international community to send a clear message to hold each and every war criminal responsible for their acts. Since the statute of the tribunal does not apply to such category of grave violations, it should not be too difficult to apprehend and bring to justice all war criminals no matter how old their crimes are.

ATLANTIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has pledged that Washington will be the role of full partner in the peace process. This will be far bigger than that given by Washington under the Bush administration, noted Al Sayid in his daily Wednesday. These promises were of course welcomed by the Arab parties which yearn for a just and durable peace in the Middle East, it said. However, added the paper, these nice words can mean nothing if the United States does not take an active part in helping the two sides reach peace, adopting a unified criteria in dealing with all matters related to various issues, the paper said. The paper said that the United States should be even-handed in its dealings with the Arabs and the Israelis so that it can be eligible for the role of full partner and not a biased mediator. The paper added that as it did with Resolution 799, demanded the paper. The United States could, if it wanted, play an unbiased role and could help achieve peace if the will were there and if it chose to remove all obstacles in the path of a just and durable peace, said the paper. It said that the Arabs welcomed any positive American role and hoped that the European Community would also play an active part in the peace process and in the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, so that genuine peace can be established.

At Al Shabab daily said what the Clinton administration has been saying and doing contributes to encouraging Israel to remain adamant and pursue its atrocities against the Palestinians. The paper said that the U.S. administration has encouraged the Rabin government to circumvent U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and encouraging Israel to refuse to return the expellees. The paper also said that this is the true stand and attitude of the United States which is hostile to the Arab parties in general and the Palestinians in particular. The paper said that the Arab leaders who announced that the Clinton administration intends to play the role of full partner in the peace process must have their reasons, as they received new pledges, but there is nothing on the ground to corroborate the U.S. claim, said the daily. On the contrary, Washington's stand vis-a-vis Resolution 799 was identical to that of Israel, the paper added. It also said that each of the Arab parties has its own idea about the peace process and adopts different attitudes towards the expellees' question. This situation, and the continued U.S.-Israeli pressures on the Arabs, said the paper, can only lead to the fragmentation of the Arab stand and a weakening of the Arab cause.



Russian troops again fighting in Central Asian mountains

By David Ljunggren
Reuter

ROMIT GORGE, Tajikistan — More than a decade after the start of the bloody and eventually disastrous Afghan war, Russian troops are again fighting in the mountains of Central Asia.

The 201st Motorized Division, based in the capital Dushanbe, is helping the authorities in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan crush resistance from Islamic rebels who briefly held power last year.

Thousands of people were killed in a year of often merciless fighting before the defeated opposition retreated high into the forbidding Pamir Mountains to wage a guerrilla war.

Estimates of their numbers vary widely from a few hundred to well over 1,000.

"There may not be very many of them, but my God, they really know how to fight," said Viktor, a Russian officer.

The 201st officially helps Tajik Interior Ministry forces and fighters from the powerful Popular Front only when the Russian-speaking population of the small republic is in danger.

But in private, Russian officers say their troops are doing much of the serious fighting and complain bitterly about what they say is the inefficiency of the local troops and irregulars.

Lieutenant Colonel Grigory Dymov, head of the division's tank battalion, said he was confident Tajik forces would crush the rebels once spring arrived. He dismissed the possibility of the

campaign turning into a second Afghanistan.

Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan in December 1979 to help prop up the communist government against Muslim rebels but quickly found themselves bogged down in a frustrating partisan war. More than 13,000 died before the army finally withdrew.

The Tajik fighting is depressingly familiar to Afghan veterans — the enemy is born and bred in the art of mountain warfare and snipers seem to lurk behind every corner.

"The snipers pop up from their hide-outs, loose off a couple of shots and disappear again. It can take up to 300 artillery shells to kill each one," sighed one officer.

Added a military expert: "There are an awful lot of great hiding places in the Pamirs. This one will run and run."

Col. Dymov's armoured bulldozers are often at work, clearing away rockfalls set off by the rebels and repairing destroyed roads and bridges while under grenade and machinegun fire.

The fighting is now mainly confined to three mountainous areas north-east of Dushanbe, including the Romit Gorge, a mere 45 kilometres from the capital.

"Mountain fighting is the hardest kind of war," said the commander of the official Tajik forces' forward base in Romit. "We do not reveal our names. You can call me — the deputy commander for fresh air in the Romit Gorge," he smiled grimly. His men are Tajik irregulars, mostly from the Popular Front.

They are stationed in a mountain village nestled in the gorge, about 700 metres wide at this point. Snow-covered mountains loom above on both sides. Tanks, armoured cars and artillery pieces sit marooned in snowy mud.

At night the temperatures can plunge to minus 20 centigrade. Last week a detachment of 10 men took a wrong turn in one remote pass and froze to death.

Few are under any illusions they are fighting to the end.

"Those people are not going to give in — they are fanatics. We will crush them to the last man, but we do not want innocent people to die," said the deputy commander.

Diplomats and officers describe the war as one of the dirtiest they have ever seen, with both sides committing abuses. Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said earlier this month that the stories of atrocities outdid anything he had experienced during his service in Afghanistan.

"People sitting open the stomach of a pregnant woman and tearing the foetus apart with their bare hands, things like that," said Col. Dymov.

"I served in Afghanistan for two years and never saw things like this," said a Popular Front intelligence officer in Romit.

"They cut off noses and ears, gouge out the eyes and stuff private parts into the corpses' mouths."

The deputy commander, flinching instinctively as one of his snipers fired at something suspicious in the mountains, added:

"On one occasion a group of rebels was crouched behind some sort of shield we couldn't make out. 'When we got closer we realised they'd strung the corpses of our boys together on boards and were crouching behind them, figuring we wouldn't be able to shoot at our own men.'"

Col. Dymov takes a pragmatic attitude and attacks Moscow liberals who have condemned the war as inhuman.

"People a long way away are judging Central Asia. They say human rights are being violated, but let them be violated. You can't win a war and keep your hands clean," he said.

The men fling their Kalashnikov assault rifles into the melting snow before kneeling down to pray.

"There are Muslims on both sides, but they are fanatics. We want to put them on the right path," said the deputy commander.

The men say they could easily crush the rebels but are holding back because they do not want civilians to suffer.

In Dushanbe, Russian officers laugh at such talk.

"We're doing most of the fighting, of course. Once a week we get into our tanks and push the frontline forwards perhaps 100 or 200 metres," said Georgy, a major.

"The Tajiks are supposed to be the footsoldiers but they're hopeless. The last time we advanced I got a frantic call on my headset: 'Georgy, come back, come back, those useless bastards have disappeared again.'"

LETTERS

Political morality vs. political realism

To the Editor:

AMBASSADOR Adnan Abu Odeh's briefing to a group of journalists and political analysts, as described in the Jordan Times (Tuesday Feb. 23, 1993) was, to say the least, diplomatically stimulating, politically controversial, philosophically ambiguous, and morally patriotic. Mr. Abu Odeh walked on a tight rope balancing his heart and mind over a minefield of important issues, and safely reached the other side of his constructive ambiguities. Only sophisticated and brilliant diplomats like Mr. Abu Odeh can execute such a controversial political feat.

Although he did not seem to prefer one or the other, Mr. Abu Odeh declared that after 41 years as an observer, he came up with "one main conclusion about the Arab World — it continues to rationalise and think in terms of what is fair and just, and correct, instead of what is strategic and economically beneficial. Had Mr. Abu Odeh used the terms 'justice and legal' on the one hand, and the terms 'power politics and material values' on the other, the choice would have been transformed to a conflict between political morality and immorality. Thus the expulsion of 400 Palestinians by the barbaric action of the Israelis is, to any free man, not a question of being unfair and unjust, but a question of being inhuman, illegal, illegitimate and politically immoral. Needless to say that the Arabs could not be blamed for thinking of it in that light, and consequently to consider it to be utterly unacceptable.

Thus any Arab strategy as a reaction to the expulsion must be based on the legal and moral merits of the case, to save the victims of the cruel expulsion, rather than on the strategic and material value of the surrender to the power politics of the criminals whose actions and those of their supporters cannot be morally, legally, or politically justified.

This writer thinks it unfair of Mr. Abu Odeh to put the blame solely on the Arabs for the state of conflict, factionalism and apathy which they suffer today. Yes, it is some Arab leaders who are "the only ones to blame" amongst the Arabs "for this state of affairs" but the United Nations, particularly the United States, and other permanent members of the Security Council, and the G-7 (industrial nations) states are equal partners in the blame for the misery, poverty, violence and some of the barbaric actions in the world today.

Let all the ambassadors to the United Nations, before prescribing blame to the Arabs, think of themselves as an Iraqi father whose son is dying because the United States does not allow him to have the medicine he needs. Let them think that they are a Palestinian mother in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza whose son of 12 years has just been shot dead by an Israeli soldier armed with an American rifle, before suggesting what strategic or economic benefit they wish to suggest.

Military and economic power is not, and can never be, moral power. Justice, humanity, and political morality, for however long it will take, will finally win. That is the path of nature, it is the path of God. That or else the world will continue to be controlled by the politics and the material values of the Stone Age, instead of the mercy and caring kindness of Christ and Mohammad; by the savagery and greed of Zionism, the G-7 and the Security Council, instead of God's laws in Christianity and Islam.

However, I have the greatest respect for most of Mr. Abu Odeh's ideas and thoughts, some of which are his own, others are those of the ambassador to the United Nations, and although I always find it difficult to separate one from the other, I pray that with which I disagree are his own personal views, and not the policy of the government of Jordan. It will help us all if he can make a distinction. Welcome to the home of democracy. Adnan Said...!

Ma'an Abu Nowar,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, CUSTOMS DELIVERIES, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INTL. EST.

Packing, shipping Forwarding, storage worldwide Removals Air, Sea and Land

TEL: 66 48 90
FAX: 66 08 52
POST: 92 64 87
Amman-Jordan

YOUR BEST CHOICE IN JORDAN...

- * Kats Dryclean, 1 Hr. Service
- * Shoes repair * Engraving
- * Keys Service
- * Upholstery, curtains & carpets cleaning

6 Branches at YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Plaza Hut, phone 821858, Fax 822183

STUDIO 10

Photography, Video, Film, TV, Radio, Music, Sound, Lighting, Equipment, Services, etc.

4 RENT & SALE

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale, furnished or unfurnished. Also many plots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call:

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605/810609
Fax: 810520

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Food
Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 12:30-2:30 & 6:30-11:30 daily

Take away is available

Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel: 661822, Amman

Once Tasted Always Loved

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm 7:30-11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle

Tel: 659519 659520

FOR THE BEST MONEY ADVERTISING RATE

Jordan Times

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

shemsani, tel: 660250 (now open daily)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30-Midnight

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliyyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 7:00-Midnight

Tel: 639968

TRIO KRISOLA

AL KHAYMA BAR

830 p.m. - 120 a.m.

AVIS

We try harder.

SAS

699-420

XEROX Copy Centre

- Copying
- Typing
- Binding
- Faxing
- Plan printing

Tel: 693804 - 693181/3

China Town Restaurant

Every great city in the world has its China Town and Amman now has its own.

Where you can eat the most exquisite Chinese dishes, fish and dimmer.

Banquet service

All chefs from Peking, China

at the Amman Hotel

Tel. 674285 or 674111 ext. 6338

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193 - P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434

Telex 23888 DAROTL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Jordan Times

هكذا مت الأمل

Iraqi artists immortalise world's infinite aspects

By Ica Wabbeh
Jan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — By the look of things in the artistic arena of the Kingdom's capital, it is a season of the Iraqi school art. And after seeing the works of painters Mohamad Fradi and Jabbar Mejb, one feels the spell would be casted without their contribution.

The two naturalistic painters immortalise the world in infinite aspects with a faith and love that proves that a meticulous touch for detail, revealing a deep attachment to one's nation and a desire for communion with nature.

Mr. Fradi's water-colours narrate rural and urban scenes. The countryside is depicted in all seasons; lush green hills transform into a snowy hill slope. The wintry greyish-blue of the brilliant snow are so you actually feel cold or the urge to get on skis and whiz down the slope. Equally life-like is the shadow thrown by the tall, slender, straight-trunked trees along the sandy road under the scorching summer sun. The desolate, barren, parched ochre desert camp,

with tents and bedouins mounted on camels, contrasts with the lush green vegetation of the fertile valleys where water abounds.

Contrast is also there when viewing human life. Not in the pace of living, as peasants and townsfolk seem to go about their daily life in a slow rhythm, but in colour and representation.

The narrow town streets, with hanging, glassed-in balconies supported by plain wooden bars or more elaborately-adorned concrete cornices, are mostly greyish-blue or off-white, with only an occasional colourful door or window giving life to the monotonous town lane.

ART REVIEW

The streets are so narrow the houses almost meet and the sky is barely visible.

And as if to escape the oppression of town life, the settlements in the countryside occupy only a fraction of the canvas, giving way to the expanse of rich vegetation.

Modern and traditional also contrast in the people's attire. In the town streets western garb mingles with chadors, free-flowing hair with veiled faces.

Mr. Mejb's works, water-

colours and oils, demonstrate a fascination with nature, which he prefers to experience first-hand: "All my nature paintings are done on the spot. I take my paints, canvases and easel and paint in the middle of nature."

Water seems to be a favourite of the artist, but so is the palm tree. And above all is the autumn he so often depicts as "its colours are so rich and complementing each other that painting it is easy and a real pleasure."

What catches the eye is the woman toiling, present in all aspects of life's undertakings. "The woman in Iraq does everything. She cooks, bakes, farms, reaps crops, looks after the babies, fishes, looks after her family."

So the surprise to see women in boats, propelling them with long poles over the not so deep water in search of fish will subside once the artist explains their status.

Leaving their mud or reed houses with thatched roofs in the early morning hours, the fishermen (women) are caught in different instances, gliding over the mirror of the water surface.

"Water enhances the beauty of nature by reflecting it," said the artist, speaking with fond memories of Dohuk, of the "aghwar" of south Iraq, and the rivers of his country.

An Irbid Rock is the painting that, besides paying tribute to the host country, somehow makes the passage from the precarious water medium to the more solid terra firma of towns and countryside.

Nature teems with trees, bushes and cereal crops, and the colours pass through all the possible tints of the palette. From dark, olive-green and dark brick, to pale, straw-yellow and sky-blue. Mr. Mejb seems to have no difficulty mixing his colours.

The palm trees, revered by the artist ("Iraq is the country of 32 million palm trees. Everything from the tree is used for different purposes"), are present in almost every canvas. Clustered or lonely, they are part of the background of the actual centrepiece of the works.

The trees, as in Mr. Fradi's water-colours, are sensibly aligned on the sides of roads and paths to keep the weary traveller in their shadow on shimmering summer days.

The shadow, startlingly, acquires a bluish hue in the artist's representation to "both reflect the sky above



Two paintings by Jabbar Mejb on display at Alia Art Gallery



and to keep cool by means of a cold colour like blue."

Peasants farming in Rashidiah under the burnt colours of autumn are the last in the series of nature water-colours. The oils mostly duplicate the artist's favourite themes. So the palm trees are also painted in oil, as is Qadhe-miah, a town dear to the painter.

An interesting architectural study, one Qadhe-miah quarter provides a close look to a vaulted, narrow street with an open sewer in its middle.

The morose, greyish walls of the houses are given some life and joyousness by the

bright colours of the doors and windows.

"The area is grey, humid and depressing, so to change the mood and bring some colour, I used these bright spots," the artist said for explanation, adding that actually, most of the inhabitants of the town did paint them like that for the same purpose.

Another urban scene is that of a bustling popular souq in Baghdad, with veiled women and aba-clothed men bargaining for goods and watching the sheltered fruit boxes.

The oils, bigger in size than the water-colours, are less

colourful, with olive green, grey and taupe predominating.

The landscape is a replica of the water-colour boats, waterways, palm leaf-roofed mud houses surrounded by reed fences or towns. What draws the attention is the always paired human presence. Never alone, Mr. Mejb's people seem to express the desire for companionship and communication, the only way one would survive in the immensity of our planet.

The exhibition, currently being held at the Alia Art Gallery, will continue through Feb. 28.



water-colour painting by the Iraqi artist Mohammad Fradi

Diary

THE COST OF PEACE: Finance Minister Basim Jarranah earlier this week revealed that Middle East peace negotiations have cost the Jordanian government close to JD 5 million. According to the minister's report, which came in the form of a reply to a question by a member of the Lower House of Parliament, bilateral talks which started in Oct. 1989 cost the budget JD 2,491,919; while multilaterals, which started several months later, cost JD 214,894. Observers believe that although the price may appear exorbitant, it certainly is not a result of overspending on PR (public relations) work or on gourmet eating by our delegations. On the first score, you need only look at the Jordanian Press Office which operates from a single room at Washington's Willard Hotel where the Jordanian team to the bilaterals stayed and compare it to the press operations of the other delegations to see just what we mean by thrifty PR spending. Even the Palestinian team has a larger media operation than ours and their hardly compares with the Israelis who operate out of a conference room in their hotel that has tens of telephone lines and all kinds of other communication equipment. As far as the other necessity — food — goes, well, the delegation is not exactly happy about the pick of the crop since they all eat in the same room, almost the same food, everyday. This leaves us to conclude that the bulk of the expenditure mainly goes to transport and to paying the cost of hotel rooms (reduced rates by the Willard but more importantly perhaps to per diems which members of the delegation get for staying away from their families and homes for pretty long periods of time. "Those who think the per diems are big enough an incentive for us to stay away from home can come here and replace me at least," said a member of the delegation. "I'd rather spend my time talking with my wife and children than negotiating with the Israelis...anytime...ever."

PRESS SANDWICHES: Editors-in-chief should be aware of what they print or write even in the era of democracy. Dr. Musa Keilani, who is the responsible editor to Al-Dustour Arabic daily, was the target of some heavy bashing by readers who were flabbergasted by an interpretation he made earlier this month of a poll conducted by a Yarmouk University professor. The poll dealt with Jordanians' opinions on the peace process and other related issues. About 54 per cent of those interviewed said they did not favour any form of unity between Jordan and a liberated West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Keilani had picked on this point by making the "we do not want Palestinians" bit the controversial theme of his article on the subject. Those "Palestinians", or their "supporters", soon afterwards converged on a lecture by the professor who conducted the study and used the opportunity to give Mr. Keilani a taste of his own medicine. One of them urged the professor to take Dr. Keilani to court and demanded that he be removed from his post as editor, a suggestion which attracted not only applause from the audience but also attention from the owners of his own newspaper. Until two days ago it was a touch and go situation on whether Mr. Keilani would stay with the Al-Dustour, but not really over his piece on the Palestinians. Today the news has it that he is staying, even though there is no word yet on if and how all the outstanding issues between him and the owners have been tackled.

WHERE DOES THE BUCK STOP?: A controversial report about freemasonry in Jordan is holding up the release into the Jordanian market of Al-Ahali weekly, which, being an off-shore publication, needs the censors' approval before being allowed in. Apparently, the officials at the Ministry of Information are facing a dilemma. None of them wants to jeopardise their status by assuming the responsibility for approving or rejecting the entry of the weekly with the controversial report, which was written by a young enthusiastic reporter who spent several weeks researching it, specifically after the Lower House of Parliament voted to ban freemasonry in Jordan. As the Diary understood it, the head of the department in charge passed the buck to his superior who in turn passed it to higher authorities in view of some of the sensitive terms used in the article. But the higher authorities threw the ball back into the Ministry of Information's court saying it had nothing to do with the freedom of press or censorship. Now nobody wants to touch the issue with a forty-foot pole, but there cannot be any escape for anyone since the Press and Publications Department is duty bound to make a ruling. And whichever way it goes, it can't avoid trouble.

LOVE THY "BROTHERS": There is a silent tug-of-war between the Islamist leadership of the Engineers Association and its leftist and liberal ranks that threatens to spill over into other corridors. According to well-informed sources, the main office of the association, manned already by 42 employees, has been inflated by an additional 30 "bearded" staff members since the Islamists took over the association, the sources say. Although the new appointments raised eyebrows among the engineers, no protest was made until it became apparent that the Islamists were coming to replace the leftists in one way or another. One apparent "victim", the head of the Public Relations Department, was recently demoted without explanation. This decision was contested by the "liberals" during the annual general meeting of the association held Friday but apparently to no avail. This week the PR manager was fired altogether without explanation, "which goes to prove that it is a purely political decision," a member of the association told the Diary. The sacked official intends to take the association to court, but considering that the employees are not subject to the protection of the Civil Service Commission, the decision to dispose of him might be considered legal. The liberals among the association members pledge that they will pursue this case to the end. Their main concern, however, is that the main Islamist group in the country will change the well-known saying "love thy neighbour" to the more adept "love thy Brother."

THE PRICE OF FAME: Nidal Sukhtian, president of Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Amman chapter, called earlier this week to tell us about some remarkable comments reportedly made by Mr. Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, during his recent visit to Jordan. Mr. Sukhtian thought we might be interested in covering the alleged remarks, though belatedly, as they were made at an "unofficial meeting" in Amman in reaction to the one-page advertisement his organisation had published in Al-Dustour Arabic daily on the day Mr. Christopher was here. The secretary of state reportedly said: "It (the ad) has touched me. It was written in an honest frame. Those who have written it are people who must have suffered." According to Mr. Sukhtian, Mr. Christopher said he will relay the content of the advertisement to U.S. President Bill Clinton, no less. Perhaps if Mr. Sukhtian had decided to place the one-page advertisement in the Jordan Times instead of Al-Dustour, the news item he requested would have been on the local news page rather than being stuck here on the Diary. Business is business, brother.

Normeen Hamed

France sharpens sword against Franglais

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

RIS — The official defenses of French, ceremonial words ready, have cracked in first new dictionary 1935 open to "blue-an," "best seller," "cover" and a few dozen other English words.

But while the 40 "immortals" of the Academie Francaise were admitting that the handful of aliens into the lexicon, the government took steps to halt the creep of anglicisms into science and business.

Officials are drafting a new law aimed at businesses and government-financed conferences that do not use French. It could be another losing battle. An existing statute with similar aims is seldom enforced. Companies such as Intel, the communications giant, hold international meetings in English and the Pasteur Institute publishes medical reviews in that language.

December, government-endorsed France Telecom unveiled a new English-style that drops the accents in order to convey the image of international company. France is a champion of pan unity and officials at the increasing dominance of English on the conti-

nent. Their language-policing efforts remind some of big brother, but the French generally have been tolerant of government intervention in society.

The Academie Francaise, whose members include playwright Eugene Ionesco, philosopher Claude Levi-Strauss and oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, released the first of three volumes of its new "dictionnaire" in November. Among the other English words in the first postwar edition are "blackout," "dead-end," "diddle" and "derrick." They are among 5,900 new words in a volume with 16,500 entries.

"We are a kind of tribunal," said Maurice Druon, founder of the 357-year-old institution, watches over the foyer. Mr. Druon said the academy hopes to publish the second volume of the ninth edition in 1995 and the final one at the turn of the cen-

tury. An academy panel sometimes spends weeks on a single word.

The "immortals" are far behind two French linguists who found in 1981 that 2,600 English and American words were used in France. Other leading dictionaries carry several times as many English entries as the academy's.

"Compact disc," "drive-in" and "bebop" did not make it with the academy, but are in the widely used Petit Robert Dictionary.

Jean-Claude Milner, linguistics professor at the Sorbonne, said of the academy dictionary: "No one opens it or uses it. It's not in my office or even in our library."

"But the academy's new dictionary is a sign that society is more open" to English words, he added. "It is a witness to how society sees its language."

Even editors who approve more English words cite the need to provide French alternatives to popular English expressions.

Some new French computer and sports terms have replaced the English versions — for example, "Logiciel" for "software" and "jeu decisi" for "tie-breaker."

"But you can't tell someone they've been wrong all along in using an English word," said Claude Kannas,

editor of the Larousse Dictionaries. "We give them a choice. A language that lives, moves."

Alain Rey, editor of the Robert Dictionaries, said English is only the latest influence.

"In the 16th century, French was invaded by Italian for 30 or 40 years," he said. "A language can't live closed, or it becomes a dead language."

It was after that long linguistic raid that Cardinal Richelieu, finance minister and most powerful person in France after Louis XIV, founded the Academie Francaise in 1635. Its first dictionary appeared in 1694.

In 1970, the government openly declared war on Franglais and Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas created a commission on terminology. With the academy's help, it draws up a blacklist of English words every year and provides French equivalents that must be used in official documents.

The current law against using English in business was passed in 1975, but enforcement has been lax and punishment nominal.

TWA was fined \$500 for issuing boarding passes in English, for example, and distributing English-only programmes for the Amer-

ican musical comedy Bubbling Brown Sugar cost the National Theatre of Paris \$200.

As part of a television advertising campaign, a suave Frenchman invites his date for "un drink" in "mon living." After she slugs him, he repeats the invitation "en bon francais" and she melts.

In 1986, France organised its first "Francophone summit" of the 46 countries where French is spoken regularly. It spends billions of dollars to promote the language abroad through schools and cultural activities.

But inroads at home caused 800 prominent people to sound an alarm in November, urging the government to do something about "the future of French."

"For some years, some decision-makers have been bent on renouncing French as their own language and speaking English, or rather American," the petitioners said in an advertisement published in the respected newspaper Le Monde. They included industrialists, writers and performers.

In December, the government held a conference on how to change the rules on enforcing French usage.

Officials were secretive about details of the proposed

law, but said it would extend coverage to audio-visual products, advertisements and scientific fields.

It would require that government-financed conferences include French, said Jacky Simon, a technical counsel for the government. "Young French scientists don't think in French any more," he said.

Artistic products such as recorded music would not be required to include translations, however, and Mr. Simon said the myriad English-language storefront windows in Paris can stay as they are.

Penalties would be strengthened and certain products that do not include French text might be seized, he said.

"We don't plan to cut off any heads," said an aide to Catherine Tasca, secretary of state for Francophone countries and foreign cultural relations. "The spirit of the law is not to be a policeman. There must be a massive linguistic raising of consciousness."

The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, denied the new law's purpose is to slow the spread of English in the European Community.

"It is not a worry, but more a wish, that Europe be more multilingual," he said. "Unity doesn't mean homogeneity."

The ubiquitous computer

By Jean-Claude Elias

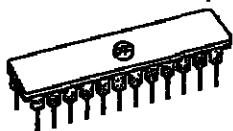
When a new technology is introduced, it usually goes through different phases of development. There is obviously a launching phase in all cases. Then, depending on how successful it is and its market acceptance, it can quickly decay or on the contrary, show further growth, followed by a steady and long phase to eventually decay, or become almost a well established and "here-to-stay" commodity. The curve varies greatly from one product to another.

If we consider technologies that have proven their durability in the twentieth century, like for instance cars and television, and their tremendous impact on society, market specialists and economists agree that these products have been well past the initial launching and subsequent improvement phases and are now in the steady one, notwithstanding some minor improvements every now and then. No decay is in sight for these two products for the time being.

Although computers have been around since the post-World War II period, informatics and computer industries are still in their infancy. More particularly personal computers (PC) "were born" at the beginning of the eighties. A conference-seminar organised last year in Amman by IBM experts from England explained and stressed this point. They asserted that the best was yet to come.

Being in its infancy, the PC is trying to walk steadily and find its own way through life. Users from all countries, at the beginning of the nineties, are showing a frightening appetite for PCs. While large corporations usually do some study and planning before purchasing computers, small companies and, above all private users, tend to buy PCs in an erratic way. They have a strong feeling that they need the machine, that they must have one. But do not try to ask them how the PC is going to make their life better. They would probably not be able to give you a clear explanation. They can certainly tell you that they will type their letters with the word processor instead of a typewriter, that they

chip talk



will send you faxes right from the PC. They can show you beautiful and colourful computer games, and programmes that can calculate at lightning speed. But if you ask "wasn't your typewriter enough for your 2-letters-a-month work load? How many faxes a day do you send? Isn't a pocket calculator enough for your supermarket shopping account? Wouldn't you rather be playing real tennis on a court, in the open air with a real friend?" they will look at you as if you were still in the stone age, without however giving you any reasonable or logical answer.

Many small to medium size companies still think that they could have a perfectly paperless office with all tasks and communications handled by computers. This is the same kind of exaggeration and aberration as private users who can't breathe without their PC or Notebook computer around. Because of its interactive nature, the work with a computer puts more stress on a person than with more traditional means.

If there are thousands of reasons one should use a computer, there are thousands of other reasons why one shouldn't as well. Time will probably prove to be the best filter. PC addicts will slowly rediscover the beauty of books made of paper and the importance of the human touch in all tasks. They will also learn how to carefully select the work that they will let computers do for them, for the usefulness of these machines in many a field is beyond any doubt. Computers will then enter the "adult" phase.

How to climb the social ladder

By E. Yaghi

Some people may be frustrated because they have suffered defeat in their unsuccessful attempts to attain a position in certain social elite or cliques here in Jordan. Such attemptees should however know the requirements before botching up and flopping on their faces.

The right area of town

The first step in becoming a member of social nobility is to live in the proper area of town. Even if one is only renting a flat or home, that person must, I repeat, MUST live on the west side. Living anywhere else is a negative dot on the social blacklist. For all those would-be social climbers then beware if you live on the east, south, or north side of Amman for you will automatically be considered a deviant as well as inferior and therefore, unworthy of attention by upper class gentry.

The right kind of car

Next, only certain makes of specific brands of cars are acceptable to own, such as Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Jaguar, Cadillac, Mercedes Benz or BMW. Possessing a lesser brand (a mark of poverty), bicycling for health reasons or physical fitness, or walking because you don't own or cannot afford a car are complete no-no's and will never get you anywhere (socially) except your immediate intended destination. Have you ever been walking and become swallowed up in a cloud of dust by that phantom driver who roared past as if you were invisible? Or have you ever been drenched with mud while that bullet of a car sped past, purposely aimed through that swamp of water that lives on most streets in winter?

The right kind of clothes

Another important and essential must is to wear the latest fashions directly from a Paris designer who really happens to be someone's pet baboon. If you do not own an elegant wardrobe and dress up to par (never wear the same thing twice), then forget about becoming accepted as one of the "in-group." It always helps to drop a hint of a famous brand name or where you purchased that latest piece of clothing, or you can wear the tag on the outside so all will be sure to notice. Such phrases as, "Look what I happened to pick up in Rome on a shopping spree (a mink!)" may get you somewhere. Another cheaper solution is to buy your own monkey and let it design your clothes for you and tell everyone that the Parisian one made them instead.

The right kind of talk

Before you can hope to get anywhere at all, you must know how to speak "Medineh." Beware, if you slip any "g's" into your conversations, you might get shown to or even thrown right out of the door and never make it past rung one on the social ladder. So, instead of saying that "mountain" or harsh sounding "gar" and "goolna," you simply chop off the G and say, "al" and "oolna." This might prove to be very confusing to those who are not used to omitting their "g's" and some green and amateur novices have been known to drop a "G" from here but forget to delete it from there, thus demonstrating their social gaucheness. It is advisable to take speech lessons in "Medineh" if you have not mastered the language.

The "wasta"

Another essential requirement is to be the son or daughter of a great family. "Great" meaning famous of

course, not necessarily good. If you are just an average nobody and do not have a thousand "wastas" then you will never get beyond your own nose. For those big game hunters, you will say with raised eyebrows, "The son/daughter of... Never heard of him/her!" and proceed to sneer you up to down from head to toe as if you are some contagious disease. The only solution to this nagging problem is to change your name, either by becoming adopted by the rich and famous, stealing their name. (you can always claim to be a very distant relative) or to forget the whole affair.

Parties, parties, parties!

Further, you must know how to party your head off and flit from one social cluster to another at festivities like a refined social butterfly. While in the wing of flight, you must be sure to sling just the right words and charming phrases to those higher-ups (even if you despise them) to ensure that you retain or obtain social fame and not turn into a gadfly.

While frequenting those lengthy parties (which often tend to be immensely boring) you will be sure to hear all issues of political and international importance discussed and solved in the party atmosphere. If you suspect that some of those political analysts are under the influence of a dash of alcohol, do not worry, for everyone knows that a little swig now and then sharpens the mind as well as manners and spirits. The gossip is certain to be hot and spicy, and to make a better impression, be sure to have read the latest "best seller" so you can quote lines from it.

And do not forget that while at social gatherings, it is always important to know which utensil is to be used by which hand. "Mishandling" the forks, knives and spoons is another social taboo unless again, those sitting around you are slightly enebriated in which case, they could not care less if you used any utensil at all except the God-given ones called "hands." Do not forget to dab your mouth with a napkin after every bite or sip to demonstrate just how civilised you are and only eat your spaghetti at home.

No funny, no money

Last, but certainly not least, you must be loaded with money, own more than one house and have ten pieces of land to your name. If you do not claim to be rich and have money (you can always pretend) then you will never be considered funny and any joke you may crack, no matter how clever, will fall on stone deaf ears. To ascertain social position you seek you must inform your listeners about the latest land you purchased, or the huge condominium you just built or that little jaunt you took to Switzerland, Rome, Paris, London or New York. If you really wise, you will have a little "tea" in which you and your guests into watching a video of the trip you returned from, (bar the door so they cannot escape), and forget to sprinkle your conversation with English or French words or both. This is especially effective if those you are to don't know the language you are using.

On your climb upwards, if you follow the aforementioned directions, you might make it up the social ladder and become a social butterfly. But beware, if you lack any or more of the qualifications, then you might find yourself coldly shunned, your ladder will collapse and you may never yourself right back where you started from or worse yet, a social outcast or branded an untouchable! However that you are content with being a plain nobody, just a good sand on the beach, then disregard the above advice equals, to become an important somebody. But then again, with own estimation, each individual regardless of race, ethnicity, family connections, amount of money and side that person lives; is as unique and important as any

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 25

8:30 Uncle Buck

9:10 New Drama Series — Forever Green

Starring: Pauline Collins and John Alderton.

Jack accuses his neighbour Dennis of stealing equipment from his workshop.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Alexander The Great

Starring: Richard Burton, Freddie March and Barry Jones

The classic story of the great Macedonian leader whose dream was to spread Greek influence and culture around the world.



Friday, Feb. 26

8:30 New Comedy Series — Billy

9:10 E.N.G.

Anne, executive producer of Channel 10 News is physically attacked by the new director when she threatens to expose him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Short Fuse

A box of cigars is enough evidence for Columbo to nail down a criminal who thought he had the perfect crime.

Saturday, Feb. 27

8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

A collection of funny video clips and hilarious situations of children, soldiers and animals

9:00 Perspective

A local talk show, prepared and presented by Mureed Hammad.

9:30 Science Workshop

This documentary episode deals with the evolution of the very fast train industry in Germany and the overcoming of sound and atmospheric problems.

Daisy Bates as Freddy Beault, Nimer Rashad as Tom Beault in Pauline Collins as Harriet Beault, Forever Green on Thursday at John Alderton as Jack Beault and 9:10

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Buster

A gang of robbers successfully carry out an armed robbery on a Royal Mail train in Britain in 1963.

Sunday, Feb. 28

8:30 Who's The Boss

Little Billy is getting ready to have a birthday party as the next door neighbour Adam is celebrating his birthday too. A competition of whose party is better begins.

9:10 Documentary Program — Equinox

This episode treats the main causes of air pollution.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Simon And Simon

The daughter of a murdered ex-FBI agent seeks help from the two brothers to find out her father's murderer.

Monday, March 1

8:30 Step By Step

J.T., who doesn't have a driver's license, steals the new family car to go out on a date with his girlfriend. But will

Frank and Carol find out!

9:10 Martin Bay

The farmer Hilly mortgages his farm to the owner of a gambling house where he has lost all his money.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Vietnam

This unjust war continues with the brutal scenes of violence and the horror of executions in the jungles of Vietnam.

Tuesday, March 2

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Larry convinces Baky to go out to a singles bar where they meet two girls and return home with them. They both find themselves in serious trouble when surprisingly Larry's wife returns home.

9:10 Dirtwater Dynasty

Amy manages to regain her father's land from Richard. And Nancy finds her long gone husband who had deserted her.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Big Man

Wednesday, March 3

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Jessie finds great opposition to her joining the school's wrestling team, especially when she decides to take part in the wrestling matches.

9:00 One Step Ahead

This episode talks about the working women in Jordan. The programme is prepared and presented by Nisreen Al Tal.

9:30 After Us The Deluge

This documentary programme handles the effect of carbon dioxide and global warming on the world's environmental pollution.

10:00 News In English

10:20 A new two-part mini series — An American Love

This is a story about an Italian professor who goes to the United States on a three-month business trip, leaving his wife behind. A female assistant is appointed and a kind of intimacy begins to develop, gradually leading to a love story.

Beyond the boundaries of transgression

By Natalie Melidos Yegenian

Familiar scales and levers for weighing attitudes in this world turn awry as time, wears on and ages decay. An example of this is the trial which is being carried out in a courthouse in a place long forgotten and ignored.

For one thing, the dark brown building with its corroded sign bearing the words, "In the name of justice" is in contradiction to the lively colourful and non-specious elements of the life surrounding it, let alone the antagonistic atmosphere filling the ominous hall which in no way comes into agreement with the harmonious air of the nature outside.

The trial is one of a kind but not necessarily unique for many children in that isolated place are suffering unjust accusations and are thus being unfairly condemned and will eventually be swallowed up by their ravenous society.

The plaintiff today is a little 10-year-old boy called Tommy. As he stands inside his dock, Tommy shows the tough appearance of a daring adult. Although he might be crying from within, no tears trickle down his face and this meager figure gives no outward sign of what is going on inside his mind or his fragile heart. But still, his innocent pale green eyes could be called anything but "ignorant."

The casual glance at the child's peaceful lineaments (which was the best people could really give him) makes one hear a distant plaintive tune which little Tommy croons to himself. Indiscernible to an indifferent observer, however, is the astute brain enclosed and sheltered in his tiny round skull. Following the direction of Tommy's stupefied gaze one can see the judge pre-eminently seated on his authoritative chair. He is quite an old man with an air of self-importance and diffidence, both of which Tommy lacks.

There is yet another element which Tommy's earnest face lacks and though the judge could not specify what it was, he could sense that it was the innocent sort of look his own grandfather must have seen on his face when he was Tommy's age.

The little boy is kept alert by the judge's fiendish eyes. Are they truculently aflame, boring into his tender heart or is he just imagining that? Whatever it is, there is only one thing for sure: He is going to be examined by that judge no matter what. The gavel strikes and the judge starts: "So, my boy, your name is Tommy then?" It was more a statement than a question.

"Little Tommy, Your Honour," completes the boy with an air of truthfulness; after all, he had just taken an oath on the Bible.

"You trod on and crushed a bee yesterday?" Again, that was no more than a statement, only this time in a threatening tone.

"Yes, Your Honour," repeats Tommy Conscientiously.

"Why did you do that Tommy?" "Because helpless, vulnerable creatures should be destroyed." For Tommy it was as simple as that.

"Destroying vulnerable creatures makes you vulgar child-Tommy."

"But my parents encouraged me to do so, they... United to be a survivor and that destroying little creat many as first step towards success." He uttered these words, young-lesson learnt by heart.

"That is no justification. I can guess you... 1985 sur-

taught to turn the other cheek?" Somewhere inside the judge, his conscience aged six to you, Your Honour?"

"Turning the other cheek does not work in t Tommy went on philosophically: "Otherwise have given us the chance to live a peaceful innocent childhood without attempts at making each other with absurd ethics and principles."

It was not only the judge who was being a that "you." It was as though Tommy was mistakes of his parents and grandparents. The look he had on his face reflected the struggle, in and wrong tearing his inner soul apart trying to find a reasonable excuse for such a behavior preserved.

Astonishment would have been aroused in the Valley been stated by a 10-year-old child in an "c specialists society. But the declaration had no part in entering as to how little boys like Tommy grasped a lamb on a guilty enough to be tried in courts. This, hands in agreed upon.

After a few seconds, and as though the it if south to unexpectedly, Tommy breaks the ominous s, tent sites; protest against being tried and judged by a and tombs, even more guilty than I am. You cannot ju old rock, judge stopped his flow of utterings. Tomi ng experi-over, he pronounced.

Making sure that all the necessary proced, m to Petra were carried out meticulously and impecc, and had an left for a short recess before Jack's trial s followed.

The courtroom is silent. It is not a guilt, a vote of dreams, unaware of what's going on in the res, chlin and all its shapes, be it crushing insects or killing, for taking (both of which receive similar retribution, calling visit world).

But who is to be blamed for it? The suppling scen-judge who blames children for his own gment and Tommy who was given lessons in violence, uld receive along in this world and eventually got puni: be missed, rather the parents of such children who su, you will and then end?

Whoever the guilty party is, if this transgressio how far will it go?

The writer is a student of English literature of Jordan.

هذا من العمل

Ortega heads for Baghdad after meeting

(Continued from page 1)

leader of revolutionary movements in Central America, was among the world figures who tried in vain to mediate a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He visited several times before, during and after the Gulf war in early 1991.

Ortega represented a multitude of mostly leftist and Third World groups and socialist parties South of the equator and was supported by the Vatican and American churches as well as international pacifist groups in the region.

Ortega could not avert a war, Mr. Ortega said. He said the groups he represented were credited with securing the Iraqi announcement that it was willing to withdraw from Kuwait on Feb. 28.

One month after the war, however, came too late to be disregarded by the United States and Arab League follow-up in Baghdad.

Ortega said he met with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and also held talks in Tripoli with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Talabani says Baghdad seeking contacts

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Talabani said he asked Syrian leaders during talks in Amman in the last few days to open the Syrian border with Arab-controlled northern Iraq closed about six months ago.

"We discussed the reopening of the border between northern Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan which has been always open but was closed about six months ago. Our Syrian brothers promised to discuss the request and I hope to get a positive answer before I conclude my visit."

He said the border between Iraq and Iran was also open and trade was going on but he had heard nothing about a deal between Iraq and Iran about a crackdown on the Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen.

Mr. Talabani said Iraq's latest effort to resume dialogue with Kurds was conveyed by former Iraqi cabinet minister Makram Talabani who visited northern Iraq last week.

He said any decision on Kurds joining the talks should be adopted by the Kurdish "parliament" and Iraqi opposition groups to whom the Kurds belonged.

"Saddam should end the dictatorship, stop his provocations, solve the problem of democracy (and) give details about the fate of 200,000 Kurds of whom it is not known whether they are dead, imprisoned or alive."

Mr. Talabani said his talks in Syria covered contacts with Iraqi opposition groups especially the nationalists who did not join an opposition alliance formed following a meeting in northern Iraq last year.

U.N. said to turn down Iraqi offer

(Continued from page 1)

and Kuwait have already contributed \$100 million each, would pay for U.N. costs and reparations for victims of the Gulf crisis.

The sources said the U.N. General Secretariat has told the Security Council that the Security Council had no objections if Iraq wanted to contribute to the UNRWA budget and would approve such an offer if the money was to come from the proceeds raised by oil exports under 706 and 712.

"It is an Iraqi decision and the West should have no problems with accepting it if Baghdad believes that the Palestinians should also receive assistance," said a Western diplomatic source.

"But before everything else, Iraq should accept the U.N.-supervised oil exports under the relevant Security Council resolutions," said the source, adding that this was the common view of Britain and the United States — the two dominant members of the council with veto powers.

Another Amman-based diplomat of a leading member of the European Community (EC) said Europe "understands the problems faced by UNRWA and is concerned that its budget crisis should be overcome."

"But that should not mean an undermining of Security Council resolutions," added the diplomat.

Expellees reject temporary transfer

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Rantisi described as "good" a statement by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi in which she said there was no process of making compromises on the issue of the expulsions.

Dr. Ashrawi, speaking after meeting Mr. Christopher in Jerusalem Tuesday, said: "We want to make sure that deportations are stopped immediately and that the orders are rescinded and that Israel will not resort to deportations in the future."

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not make any announcement about further steps to return the expellees although he might speed up a judicial review of each case that could result in the early return of some evictees.

He has offered to allow 101 to come back immediately and the rest by the end of this year at the latest, an offer rejected by the Palestinians and the expellees.

The tension and repeated disappointments left their toll on the expelled. Many appeared to have lost hope of a quick return and others were simply fed up.

"I think we will stay here until next December," said Ali Dsou, a businessman from the West Bank.

A heated argument broke out among a small group of exiles which ended with one of them shouting: "You believe we are going back? We will never see it. Rabin can outmanoeuvre the whole Islamic World."

Mulroney resigns as prime minister

(Continued from page 1)

Quebec.

Mr. Mulroney, a Quebecer of Irish descent, was elected to office in 1984 in a landslide election, pledging to resolve the Quebec dispute.

But recession and the most severe unemployment in eight years have undermined his support and made him one of Canada's most unpopular leaders ever.

Recent opinion polls show Mr. Mulroney's support hovering at 17 per cent, while the opposition Liberal Party has a comfortable lead with the backing of about 46 per cent of Canadians.

The Canadian dollar fell by nearly a cent against the U.S. dollar in nervous overnight trading once media reports of his possible resignation circulated on world financial markets.

Leaders of the opposition Liberal and New Democratic parties increased pressure in recent weeks on the government to call an early election.

The New Democrats said Mr. Mulroney had to call an election before ratifying the north American free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico.

Iraqis refuse to accept 'defeat' in war

By Harish Chandola

HOW DO the Iraqi people look at the Gulf war and its consequences? One had already read a lot about what the other side, the Western allies, have said about it. Even in the midst of the misery brought upon them by the war, the Iraqi people still say that they did not lose it.

That was no war, they say. The Western allies bombed us from 30 kilometres up in the sky, where our anti-aircraft guns did not reach. It was no act of courage to drop bombs on people from that safe height. You do not have to be a soldier to push a button to unload bombs.

The ground war too was no war, they say. There were bombs in front and behind us, and we could not move.

It was a coward's way of fighting.

Thirty countries attacked us, but we are still here. We did not change. That is why we say we did not lose the war.

This is because the Iraqi people still adhere to the old values or myth that war is a contest of courage, and loyalty to a cause. That, war has an element of fairness in it, and that is a rough way of measuring the relative merit of two causes.

It was no great act of bravery to advance on an army that was starving, bleeding from the cars and throwing down its weapons. It was no virtue to massacre it when it was in full retreat after being ordered to cease fighting and withdraw.

That was the behaviour of the hyena and the jackal, not of the lion, the Iraqis say.

Americans wanted to prove that they had got over the "post-Vietnam syndrome," and had the courage and grit to fight big wars again.

So, while some Americans may have convinced themselves of the great military virtue of their troops, they have not convinced the Iraqis, particularly the Iraqi soldiers. The Iraqis know the hardships their soldiers endured under constant bombardment for a whole month, unlike the American air warriors. It is in that sense that they refuse to accept that they lost.

The Iraqis say the U.S. used fuel-air bombs, which kill by burning up all the oxygen, on their troops dug down in tunnels.

The Western media had earlier created the fear that Iraq might use chemical weapons. But it did not. It was the U.S. which used the fuel-bomb, killing Iraqi soldiers by poisoning the atmosphere, from which all oxygen was burnt out.

The American and Western media also said the Iraqis may use biological weapons. But they did not.

On the other hand, the U.S. bombed water purification and sewage disposal plants. This, according to Red Crescent officials, was a form of biological warfare, because it killed people by means of disease. Many died because of the contamination of drinking water and some are dying of it still.

The world trembled at the thought of Iraq using nuclear weapons. But it was the U.S. which actually bombed the Iraqi nuclear installations, creating a serious danger of radiation leaks.

It used radioactive artillery shells, they spent rounds of which may be causing fatal illnesses in Iraq, including cancer.

Known as depleted uranium penetrators, when fired the core of the shell bursts into a searing flame that helps it pierce the armour of tanks and other military vehicles.

During the six weeks of war, the U.S. and allied forces fired over 10,000 such shells, dispersing, according to Western sources themselves, at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium in Iraq and Kuwait.

After firing, the broken shells release uranium particles in the air, which enter the body easily, and deposit in bones, organs and cells.

Besides being radioactive, uranium is chemically toxic, like lead, and can damage the kidneys or lungs.

All the horrible things the media said Iraq might do, were done by the U.S.

The first rules of justice were made out in Iraq. The 4,000-year-old code of Hammurabi says, a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye.

It means, for the loss of a tooth you may take no more than a tooth; for an eye, no more than an eye.

Had the Western allies applied this ancient code of justice to their assault on Iraq, thousands of lives would have been saved.

For all its humanitarian talk, the United Nations is not able to raise itself to the moral level of the ancient code of Hammurabi.

The Iraqis ask: "They have got what they wanted. They got Kuwait back. What more do they want? Why do they want to starve the Iraqi people and deny them food and medicine?"

The writer, an Indian journalist, has just ended a 12-day visit to Iraq. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

However, she said the Palestinians held out more hopes for the talks eventually in view of Mr. Christopher's comments on the Clinton administration's commitment to human rights and its view of its role in the peace talks.

"The most striking thing had to do with the commitment to human rights... and to the evolving definition of the American goals to include full partnership rather than just an enhanced peace broker or a mediator," she said.

On Wednesday, Dr. Ashrawi said the Palestinian delegates were encouraged at Mr. Christopher's reaction to the complaints of human rights violations by Israel that the delegates presented Tuesday.

"His reaction was positive, and he showed concern and a willingness to deal with these issues seriously," Dr. Ashrawi said.

A document prepared for the delegates meeting with Mr. Christopher urged pressure on Israel to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention on treatment of people in occupied lands.

Israel maintains that it follows the "humanitarian" aspects of the convention. The convention specifically prohibits expulsions and the practice of jailing without trial that Israel has used thousands of times during the five-year Palestinian uprising.

The Palestinian document also said that before the human rights situation could improve in the occupied territories, Israel would have to repeal the 1945 British emergency regulations that it still uses and hundreds of military regulations imposed since.

These regulations allow Israel to take such actions as expelling people, destroying suspects' houses, putting widespread areas under curfew, and jailing without trial.

On Wednesday, Mr. Christopher took a helicopter tour of the occupied West Bank and

Golan Heights.

Mr. Christopher, accompanied by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and army chief Ehud Barak, landed at an outpost in northern Israel facing the snow-capped peak of Mount Hermon and the strategic Golan Heights.

Sitting at a table overlooking verdant northern Galilee hills, Mr. Christopher listened to briefings from Lieutenant-General Barak and the commander of Israeli forces in the north of the country. The central message was that the Golan was of crucial importance to the "defence" of Israel.

"Well, I understand the situation much better now that I've seen it on the ground," Mr. Christopher said when asked what he'd learned from the trip. He added he would save his other impressions for later.

Asked if he expected complications in reaching agreement between Israel and Syria, Mr. Christopher replied: "There is no question that the geography complicates the matter and changes the situation very greatly."

As Gen. Barak was explaining why Israel needed the Golan, a row erupted over remarks attributed to his second in command, deputy army chief Amnon Shahak.

Lieutenant-General Shahak gave a background briefing to U.S. journalists on Tuesday, the contents of which were leaked to Israel's top-selling daily Yedioth Ahronoth on Wednesday.


"Without a withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights, there is no hope for a peace agreement," he was quoted as saying.

"Israel can ensure its security even in the case of a total withdrawal," he said.

Gen. Shahak on Wednesday denied saying this. But right-wing opposition politicians, led by former Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, leader of the fourth biggest party in Israel's parliament, demanded Gen. Shahak be sacked immediately.

If you're looking for a computer that will grow with your needs, there are basically only two ways you can go.

The hard way.



Buy a monitor, reconfigure your system. If your system doesn't come with a monitor, you'll want one. But first be prepared to install and configure a special software driver. (No need with a Mac — you just plug it in.)

Play and record sounds, reconfigure your system. Multimedia promises to be the future of computing. But most PCs aren't ready for it. So if you want to work with sound, it'll cost you time and trouble — not to mention money. On a Mac, sound is built in.

Call for help, write a check. There actually is one easy way to expand a complicated PC — hire somebody else to do it for you. Over time, of course, that can wind up costing you more than the PC.

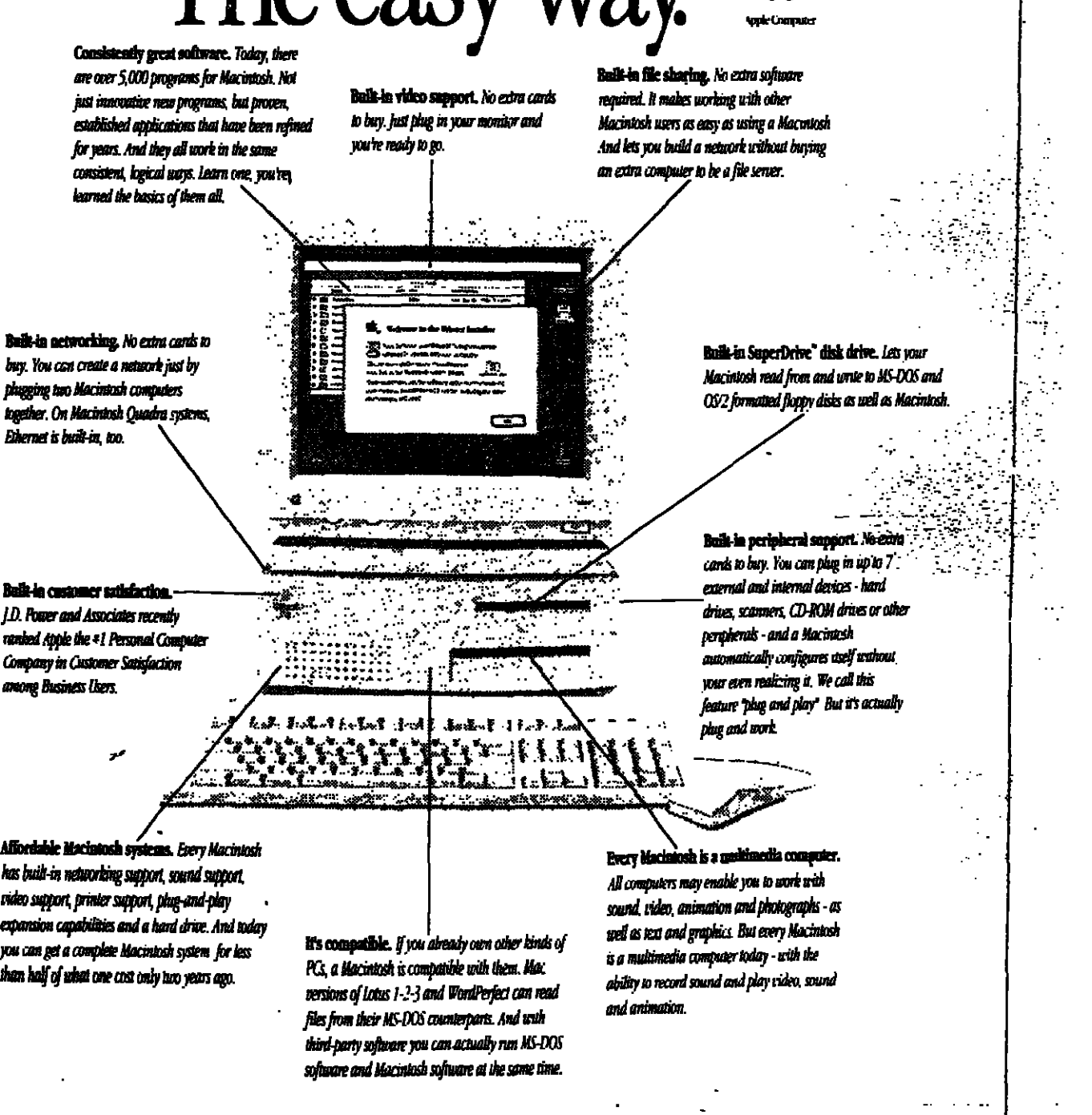
Add peripherals, reconfigure your system for each one. Want to add a CD-ROM or hard disk drive? Then prepare to spend hours installing cables, flipping tiny switches and editing files — for each one. With a Mac, you can add up to seven peripherals by simply plugging them in and clicking a button or two.

Add printers, adjust DTP switches. Hooking up a printer seems easy. Until you set your DTP switches. Install your driver, locate your graphical interface, make an error and start all over again.

Expand your PC, take two aspirin. Increasingly, you'll want to expand your computer's capabilities by adding extra devices. The more instructions you slog through and switches you fiddle with, the more time it will take. And the more pain reliefers you'll need.

Maximal labor. Software like a graphical interface purports to make things easier. But the reality is, you'll still spend hours reading manuals just to make it all work — time you could spend doing more useful things with your computer.

The easy way.



Consistently great software. Today, there are over 5,000 programs for Macintosh. Not just innovative new programs, but proven, established applications that have been refined for years. And they all work in the same consistent, logical ways. Learn one, you've learned the basics of them all.

Built-in video support. No extra cards to buy, just plug in your monitor and you're ready to go.

Built-in file sharing. No extra software required. It makes working with other Macintosh users as easy as using a Macintosh. And lets you build a network without buying an extra computer to be a file server.

Built-in SuperDrive™ disk drive. Lets your Macintosh read from and write to MS-DOS and OS/2 formatted floppy disks as well as Macintosh.

Built-in networking. No extra cards to buy. You can create a network just by plugging two Macintosh computers together. On Macintosh Quadra systems, Ethernet is built-in, too.

Built-in customer satisfaction. J.D. Power and Associates recently ranked Apple the #1 Personal Computer Company in Customer Satisfaction among Business Users.

Affordable Macintosh systems. Every Macintosh has built-in networking support, sound support, video support, printer support, plug-and-play expansion capabilities and a hard drive. And today you can get a complete Macintosh system for less than half of what one cost only two years ago.

Every Macintosh is a multimedia computer. All computers may enable you to work with sound, video, animation and photographs — as well as text and graphics. But every Macintosh is a multimedia computer today — with the ability to record sound and play video, sound and animation.

It's compatible. If you already own other kinds of PCs, a Macintosh is compatible with them. Mac versions of Lotus 1-2-3 and WordPerfect can read files from their MS-DOS counterparts. And with third-party software you can actually run MS-DOS software and Macintosh software at the same time.

On a typical PC, even adding a simple hard disk drive can be extraordinarily complex. Because each time you add something new you'll probably have to "reconfigure" your PC — the time-consuming process of telling the computer what components you've attached to it. Even if you've installed a graphical interface, you may have to edit complicated CONFIG.SYS and SYSTEM.INI files, install special device drivers or fiddle with lots of tiny DIP switches. Networking PCs together so people can exchange files typically requires the installation of cards and networking software, which can be unexpectedly difficult. And adding different kinds of peripherals means going through endless rounds of fine-tuning and adjusting. The more time you spend doing this, the less time you'll spend doing the work you really want to do.

An Apple Macintosh is different. Apple designed the computer. Apple wrote the system software. Apple designed every aspect of the system to make it easy for you to do everything you have to do — including expanding the capabilities of your Macintosh as your needs grow. If you plug a new hard drive into a Macintosh, it knows what to do with it. Installing a CD-ROM drive or scanner is a matter of plugging it in and clicking the mouse a few times. Even networking is so simple that anyone can do it — you just plug two Macintosh computers together with an inexpensive cable. We call this "plug and play." But it's actually plug and work, because you spend more of your time getting things accomplished and less time trying to figure out your computer. A Macintosh doesn't just "make it easier." It makes it easy. Period.

Apple Computer Inc. Head Office: Shmisan-24 Abdulhamid St., P.O. Box 182750 Amman, Jordan

Apple Center: Shmisan Tel. 676175, 676176

Ideal Center: Wasfi Attal St. (Gardens St.) Tel. 689417, 689418

Local Bahraini unemployment hits 15%

MANAMA (R) — Unemployment in Bahrain's local workforce hit 15 per cent in 1991, largely because of competition with foreign workers, a Bahraini minister said in remarks published Wednesday.

Labour Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa told the daily Al-Balad that 13,394 Bahrainis were looking for jobs in 1991 — 9,035 men and 4,359 women.

Bahrain, a small Gulf Arab state, has a little more than half a million inhabitants, including foreigners.

Sheikh Khalifa said 60 per cent of the 226,448 workforce in Bahrain were foreigners, according to 1991 statistics.

"The (unemployment) problem has several reasons but the main cause behind it was that some employers favour foreigners," Sheikh Khalifa said.

Unemployment in Bahrain is the main issue currently under discussion by the newly appointed consultative council.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's foreign trade showed a 44.2 million dinar (\$117 million) deficit in the third quarter of 1992, according to official figures released Tuesday.

Figures issued by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) showed Bahrain's exports from July to September 1992 totalled 335.5 million dinars (\$89.9 million) while imports stood at 379.7 million dinars (\$10 billion) during the same period.

The figure compared with a third quarter 1991 foreign trade deficit of 63.6 million dinars (\$168.7 million). Total exports in that period stood at 322.1 million dinars (\$854.4 million).

U.S. cuts aid to Seychelles

VICTORIA (R) — The United States will slash aid to the Seychelles as part of Africa-wide cuts by the New Clinton administration, a U.S. diplomat has said.

Outgoing Ambassador Mack Mattingly told reporters U.S. aid to the Indian Ocean islands was being reduced from \$3.3 million a year to \$1.3 million.

U.S. aid-resources for Africa had been stretched by the American-led military effort in Somalia, where troops have been protecting relief operations against bandits.

Despite the cuts in concessional aid, the U.S. will continue paying an annual \$4.5 million in rent for a satellite tracking station on the main island of Mahe, officials said.

Money spent by the station locally will pump several million dollars more into the economy, the official added.

The station, built in 1963, once helped the West in the cold war. Now it is part of a global network of nine stations which especially help operations of the U.S. space agency NASA.

The Seychelles, whose government follows its own brand of benign "coconut socialism," also allowed Soviet Bloc countries harbour facilities in the capital Victoria.

U.S. aid-resources for Africa had been stretched by the American-led military effort in Somalia, where troops have been protecting relief operations against bandits.

Despite the cuts in concessional aid, the U.S. will continue paying an annual \$4.5 million in rent for a satellite tracking station on the main island of Mahe, officials said.

Money spent by the station locally will pump several million dollars more into the economy, the official added.

The station, built in 1963, once helped the West in the cold war. Now it is part of a global network of nine stations which especially help operations of the U.S. space agency NASA.

The Seychelles, whose government follows its own brand of benign "coconut socialism," also allowed Soviet Bloc countries harbour facilities in the capital Victoria.

U.S. aid-resources for Africa had been stretched by the American-led military effort in Somalia, where troops have been protecting relief operations against bandits.

Despite the cuts in concessional aid, the U.S. will continue paying an annual \$4.5 million in rent for a satellite tracking station on the main island of Mahe, officials said.

Money spent by the station locally will pump several million dollars more into the economy, the official added.

The station, built in 1963, once helped the West in the cold war. Now it is part of a global network of nine stations which especially help operations of the U.S. space agency NASA.

The Seychelles, whose government follows its own brand of benign "coconut socialism," also allowed Soviet Bloc countries harbour facilities in the capital Victoria.

U.S. aid-resources for Africa had been stretched by the American-led military effort in Somalia, where troops have been protecting relief operations against bandits.

Despite the cuts in concessional aid, the U.S. will continue paying an annual \$4.5 million in rent for a satellite tracking station on the main island of Mahe, officials said.

Money spent by the station locally will pump several million dollars more into the economy, the official added.

The station, built in 1963, once helped the West in the cold war. Now it is part of a global network of nine stations which especially help operations of the U.S. space agency NASA.

The Seychelles, whose government follows its own brand of benign "coconut socialism," also allowed Soviet Bloc countries harbour facilities in the capital Victoria.

U.S. aid-resources for Africa had been stretched by the American-led military effort in Somalia, where troops have been protecting relief operations against bandits.

Despite the cuts in concessional aid, the U.S. will continue paying an annual \$4.5 million in rent for a satellite tracking station on the main island of Mahe, officials said.

Money spent by the station locally will pump several million dollars more into the economy, the official added.

The station, built in 1963, once helped the West in the cold war. Now it is part of a global network of nine stations which especially help operations of the U.S. space agency NASA.

The Seychelles, whose government follows its own brand of benign "coconut socialism," also allowed Soviet Bloc countries harbour facilities in the capital Victoria.

Hopes recede for full float of Indian rupee

BOMBAY (R) — Hopes in foreign exchange markets of a full float of the Indian rupee have receded, with dealers now expecting the government to opt for a less risky adjustment in the country's two-tier currency system.

"The fundamentals do not encourage full convertibility on trade account," said V. Ananthakrishnan, chief executive of the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI).

Indian exporters and foreign exchange dealers had been hoping that Finance Minister Manmohan Singh would announce a full float of the rupee in the national budget Saturday.

Scraping India's two-tier foreign exchange system would send a strong signal to foreign investors that the government's economic liberalisation programme launched in mid-1991 remained on track after a recent religious riots, businessmen said.

Kishor Shah, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said he remained hopeful Mr. Singh would opt for a full float, saying this would help the country's export drive.

But many foreign exchange dealers said they were sceptical the government would have the confidence to announce a full float now, with international foreign exchange markets in turmoil.

The Indian rupee fell sharply early this month on speculation a full float was imminent as exporters and Indians working abroad

held on to their remittances ahead of the budget.

The Indian currency, which opened 1993 at \$3.25 per 100 rupees, dipped to a record low of \$2.97 before recovering to trade around the \$3.04 level, or 32.89 rupees to the dollar.

The governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), C. Rangarajan, dampened speculation a full float was imminent, saying there was no timetable yet for its introduction.

The rupee was made partially convertible last year, and exporters would like the government to move towards full convertibility on trade account, although this does not mean removal of all exchange controls.

Under the present partial float began last March, exporters have to sell 40 per cent of their hard currency earnings to the government but are free to sell the rest at the higher free market rate.

The government uses the difference to subsidise imports of crucial commodities such as oil and fertilisers.

Market opinion remains divided on whether Mr. Singh will opt for a full float or merely adjust the ratio for exporters from 60:40 to 80:20. Some traders believe he will leave the ratio unchanged.

A survey by Hongkong Bank in Bombay of 38 corporate treasurers showed most now anticipated an adjustment to 80:20.

"A full float will boost inflation just when the government has got it down to the 7.0 per cent level," said Mr. Ananthakrishnan.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

British long-term unemployed tops 1m

LONDON (R) — The number of long-term unemployed in Britain has passed one million, according to figures released Tuesday, with overall joblessness three times that level.

Prime Minister John Major, under fire in parliament, admitted unemployment was "too high and higher than anyone would wish to see."

New government statistics showed those out of work for a year or more rose 75,000 in the three months to January to 1.03 million, a five-year high.

A naval dockyard at Rosyth in Scotland was the latest to add to the toll Tuesday, sacking 550 workers.

The Department of Employment said long-term unemployment has risen by 38 per cent in the year since January 1992 and has more than doubled since the current upturn began in October 1990.

Britain's total unemployment, allowing for seasonal factors, is almost three million — the highest since January 1987. The under-justed total stands at 3.06 million or 10.8 per cent.

Opposition Labour Party leader John Smith said Mr. Major was failing to do anything to help the long-term unemployed, 20 per cent of whom were aged between 18 and 24.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Jordan-Gulf Bank accord successfully closes series of commercial banks' woes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An agreement reached this week between the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and a group of Jordanian and Arab investors has closed the file on a series of troubles that hit Jordanian commercial banks in recent years.

The "agreement of understanding" signed by a CBJ-appointed management committee of the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the group of investors transfers the ownership of Jordan Gulf to the investors, who will raise the capital of the bank to JD 20 million.

The new entity would have the second highest capitalisation of any Jordanian commercial bank. The first is the Arab Bank.

The Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Al Mashreq Bank were taken over by the Central Bank under directives from the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in 1988 and 1989 after financial troubles hit the two commercial banks. The Jordan-Gulf Bank was a wholly Jordanian bank while Al Mashreq was affiliated to a Lebanese group.

The central bank injected money into both banks and in 1992 merged them in line with the CBJ policy of limiting the number

of commercial banks in the Kingdom. Although Al Mashreq was Lebanese-affiliated, it was considered as any other; Jordanian commercial bank and bound by the rules and regulations set by the CBJ.

Petra Bank, which was also taken over by the ESC in August 1988 along with Jordan-Gulf, was ordered liquidated in 1990. The liquidation process is expected to be completed by next year.

Economists say that the net loss the treasury incurred in the takeover and subsequent 20-month operation of Petra Bank could be between JD 100 million and JD 150 million depending on the success of the liquidators to collect debts.

But in the case of Jordan-Gulf and Al Mashreq the CBJ will be able to recover the funds it injected to keep them operational, officials and economists say.

This week's agreement was reached after several months of negotiations on the best means to protect the interests of the public and ensure that the CBJ would be able to retrieve the funds it pumped to keep Jordan-Gulf and Al Mashreq afloat.

"The purchase has safeguarded the rights of all parties," Ahmad Abdul Fattah, the CBJ's executive manager of banking supervision and inspection, was

quoted as saying by Reuters.

Mr. Fattah said Jordan-Gulf and Al Mashreq had adequate provisions to cover for bad debts and the CBJ could regain the loans it extended to them.

According to the CBJ official, the new capital injection meets CBJ directives to Jordanian banks to reach new standards set by the Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

All Arab banks except those in Saudi Arabia have been asked by BIS to boost capital adequacy — the ratio between shareholder equity and assets — to eight per cent, partly to protect creditors and depositors, according to Reuters.

The agreement reached this week "will preserve the rights of the bank, its clients — whether depositors, creditors of borrowers — and its staff members, and will ensure a renewed start for the bank in the various normal banking services that will end up to benefit the national economy," said a statement issued by the management committee of Jordan-Gulf Bank.

The "agreement of understanding" was signed by Walid Asfour, chairman of the management committee, and Zuhair Al Sheikh Faris Awartani, a Jordanian businessman.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Many of them had never had the chance to work at all in 14 years of rule by Mr. Major's Conservative Party, Mr. Smith said.

Unemployment had risen by one million since Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher just over two years ago, he said. "It has gone up every month since you took office."

Mr. Major said unemployment was rising across Europe. Governments of all complexions were struggling to deal with it, he said, adding: "If there is an easy answer, why is it that those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He said his government had a range of programmes to help the long-term unemployed and would do more this year.

Romanian premier admits failure to meet IMF terms

BUCHAREST (R) — Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu told the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday that Romania could not meet conditions attached to the last segment of a standby credit because of a deepening financial crisis.

His remarks were reported by the state news agency Rompres after he had met visiting IMF Executive Director Godard Posthumus in Bucharest.

"The premier told his guest Romania could not meet the requirements of its agreement with the IMF for 1992 because of a

deepening crisis that has made it use financial resources for consumption instead of investments," Rompres said.

Romania has yet to draw a last tranche of \$75 million from total credits worth \$300 million agreed with the IMF under a 1992 standby deal to support its balance of payments.

But Romania has failed to meet IMF performance criteria on foreign exchange reserves, officials said last week.

The National Bank's governor said recently that big state imports of wheat had depleted the country's currency reserves, which tumbled to a meagre \$29 million at the end of 1992.

Finance officials have also blamed revenue losses linked to enforcement of United Nations economic sanctions against neighbouring rump Yugoslavia for deepening Bucharest's financial crisis.

Despite the failure, Mr. Vacaroiu and Finance Minister Florin Georgescu both expressed hope for further IMF help including a new standby loan for 1993 as they struggle with market reforms.

"I dare say there are justified hopes for Romania to expect financial support from the IMF," Mr. Georgescu told Reuters.

"During the talks I realised the IMF has an accurate perception

of where Romania now stands," Georgescu said. "The talks represented an important step towards the negotiation of a new standby deal in March."

Mr. Georgescu said Bucharest now awaited a decision from the IMF board in Washington on Mr. Posthumus' findings.

"We agreed Romania is going through one of the most sensitive moments of the transition to a market economy," Mr. Georgescu said.

Mr. Vacaroiu briefed Mr. Posthumus on why Romania failed to meet IMF reserves criteria and reaffirmed his cabinet's commitment to free-market reforms, a government source said.

Rompres said Mr. Vacaroiu explained that his four-month-old team was seeking ways to introduce financial discipline and promote laws to underpin the reform.

The minority-led government, appointed by President Ion Iliescu in November after inconclusive September elections, has spent three months preparing its governing programme, which is to be submitted to parliament some time this week.

Mr. Posthumus told Mr. Vacaroiu the IMF was willing to continue its cooperation with Bucharest.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 23/2/93	Tokyo Close 24/2/93
Sterling Pound	1.4530	1.4465
Deutsche Mark	1.6235	1.6220
Swiss Franc	1.4980	1.4970
French Franc	5.5100	5.5048 **
Japanese Yen	117.10	116.93
European Currency Unit	1.1910	1.1910 **

Barocurrency Interest Rates Date: 24/2/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	2.93	3.12	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.06	5.56	5.43
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.51	7.75	7.18
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.37	5.06	4.81
French Franc	11.75	11.75	10.62	9.37
Japanese Yen	3.21	3.25	3.21	3.18
European Currency Unit	9.50	9.43	9.06	8.37

London bid rates for pounds, excluding U.S. dollar, £100,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 24/2/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	330.55	6.35	Silver	3.61	0.80

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/2/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	

U.N. convoy held up as U.S. works on Bosnia airdrop plan

SARAJEVO (R) — A U.N. aid convoy was halted at a rebel Serb checkpoint in eastern Bosnia for a second day Wednesday as the United States worked on plans to fly supplies to trapped Muslims over their besiegers.

The Serbs' refusal to allow the trucks to pass on their way to the encircled town of Gorazde seemed certain to add pressure for Washington to go ahead with its proposal to parachute aid to the Muslims, cut off since Bosnia's civil war started 10 months ago.

Battlefronts in the war were reported generally quiet. But a Reuters television team which went to Azici, a strategic western suburb of Sarajevo, found Serb forces had completed their capture of the area after two weeks of fighting.

Fighting is now likely to concentrate on Stup, the Bosnian-held neighbouring suburb.

The two districts dominate the vital highway between Sarajevo and its airport. If Stup also falls, the western entrance to the Bosnian capital will be wide open.

The U.N. trucks spent the night in deep snow at Podromanija, 60 kilometres from Muslim-held Gorazde. They were stopped by the Serbs Tuesday in a wrangle over inspection of their cargo.

U.N. aid official Lyndall Sachs said the Serbs were allowed to examine relief convoys to make sure they were not carrying arms to the Muslims. "But they will be searched once, and once only," she said.

Since the convoy leaders expected the trucks to be inspected at Rogatica, nearer Gorazde, they were refusing to undergo examination at Podromanija.

"It's not that we've anything to hide," said Mr. Sachs. "But it's a lot of work loading and reloading goods for inspection and they can get damaged."

A White House statement in Washington said airdrops would supplement road convoys, not replace them.

President Bill Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali agreed on the plan Tuesday.

"There is no problem. This will be done in complete coordination," Dr. Ghali said after meeting Mr. Clinton.

The airdrop proposal has run into opposition from the Bosnian Serbs. The deputy commander of the Serb army, General Milan Gvero, said the drops would "almost certainly bring about the massive use of military force and the escalation of armed clashes, with unforeseen consequences."

U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia have also given Washington's plan a cool reception. So far they have apparently not been consulted.

Their spokesman, Commander Barry Frewer, said in Sarajevo Wednesday: "We are not privy at this time to the plans the Americans are developing."

"Until we are, it is difficult to know what sort of support we can give, if any is expected."

The U.N. aid relief chief in Sarajevo, Tony Land, welcomed the plan but warned of difficulties.

"We're very positive about anything which gets food into hungry people," he said.

However, he added: "There

is a host of specialised problems in Bosnia in the middle of a war."

The fighting around Sarajevo has dropped in intensity following a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Bosnia government Saturday.

But if the ceasefire breaks down, as 19 others have before it, the Bosnian soldiers defending Stup will be in for a major battle.

"We could take Stup in three days. Then perhaps we will go on to Alipasino Polje," a Serb soldier told Reuters television.

An attack on Alipasino Polje, a high-rise neighbourhood across from the city's television station and the U.N. Headquarters, would signal the beginning of the final struggle for the capital.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner Wednesday backed a U.N. plan to send airdrops of humanitarian aid to Bosnia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) issued a statement supporting the initiative a few hours after U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali agreed on the plan to parachute relief supplies to besieged Muslim communities.

"The secretary-general supports the U.S. decision to undertake airdrops of humanitarian assistance into eastern Bosnia," the statement said, adding that the Western alliance had repeatedly called for effective relief aid in the former Yugoslavia.

"The secretary-general hopes that this humanitarian action, which will alleviate the plight of innocent civilians cut off from the most basic relief supplies for months will also contribute to achieving a settlement of the conflict."

Although White House officials insisted no final decision had yet been made to actually start the humanitarian relief mission the United States told NATO allies it will parachute supplies within a few days, alliance sources said.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Human Rights Commission Tuesday singled out rape by Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a war crime and said perpetrators must be brought to trial.

In a resolution, the 53-nation panel also condemned human rights abuses by all sides in the conflict, including Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

"There cannot only be black devils on the one hand and angels on the other," Russian envoy Sergei Kovalev said.

But the U.N. commission reserved most of its outrage for "ethnic cleansing" by Serb forces in Bosnia, where "the systematic practice of rape is being used as a weapon of war against Muslim women and children."

On Monday, the U.N. Security Council voted to set up an international tribunal to prosecute people accused of war atrocities in former Yugoslavia, which would include rape.

Many legal experts believe rape is already covered by the Geneva Conventions, which set down minimum standards of humanity in warfare.

Several international missions to former Yugoslavia, including one supervised by the commission's special investigator, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, have documented rape in Bosnia.



HELICOPTER CRASH: The burnt-out wreckage of a U.S. military helicopter lies on the tarmac of the Wiesbaden-Erbenheim Airfield after crashing here late Feb. 23. Four U.S. soldiers were killed in the crash and four injured were taken to a hospital. The reason for the crash is not yet known (AFP photo)

Russia proposes demilitarised zones in Siberian Far East

TOKYO (R) — Senior officers of Russia's Supreme Military Command told Japanese counterparts Wednesday that Moscow may create demilitarised zones in the Siberian Far East as part of a policy to ease tensions with China and Japan.

"We are prepared to create demilitarised zones in the Far East," Lieutenant-General Andrei Nikolayev, first deputy chief of staff of the Supreme Military Command, or Stavka, was quoted by Japanese Defence Ministry officials as telling a seminar at the ministry.

He also singled out Islamic fundamentalism as a "dangerous movement."

Gen. Nikolayev was the first Russian or Soviet military officer since before World War I to address a group of senior Japanese officers in Japan, the officials said.

Gen. Nikolayev did not give details about the zones, but said it was a measure designed to promote friendly ties with both China and Japan.

Except for a brief period of close military cooperation before and during World War I, Russia and Japan have been perennial enemies. The two countries have fought two wars this century as well as some other military clashes.

Gen. Nikolayev, Brigadier General Gennady Ivanov, a professor at the Stavka Academy and Anatoly Negreyev, deputy head of the Russian Defence Ministry's Foreign Relations Department, arrived in Tokyo Monday for a six-day goodwill visit.

Gen. Nikolayev was speaking on the first day of a two-day seminar for about 50 Japanese officers and senior Japanese Defence Ministry officials on Russian defence policy.

They were returning a similar trip to Moscow by Japanese officers of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Council last June.

Gen. Nikolayev's main topic Wednesday was Russia's new military doctrine, a document submitted to President Boris Yeltsin's office for formal approval.

On Thursday, Gen. Ivanov addresses the same seminar on plans for Russia's defence build-up.

The draft of the doctrine outlines the need for Russia to upgrade its rapid-deployment force to counter possible threats in neighbouring countries, including nations in the Commonwealth of Independent States, due to ethnic or religious strife and border disputes, Gen. Nikolayev said.

The difference between the former Soviet and the new Russian doctrine is adherence to United Nations and Helsinki treaty agreements, Gen. Nikolayev said.

Russia is ready to abandon the first-strike principle when firing nuclear weapons if other nuclear powers agreed, he added.

Asked by Japanese officers if Japan or Japanese territory figured in the new doctrine Gen. Nikolayev refused to answer.

A dispute over islands captured by the Red Army in 1945 and called the Southern Kuriles by Moscow and the Northern Territories by Japan has prevented the two countries from signing a World War II peace treaty.

Without the treaty, Japan says, there will be no full-scale economic aid for Russia. The quarrel forced Mr. Yeltsin to cancel a scheduled trip to Tokyo last September.

Gen. Nikolayev defended the volume of Russian military sales to other countries, saying it accounted for only \$4 billion of the global arms trade, estimated at about \$80 billion.

Man accidentally talked to Clinton

SANTA ROSA, California (AP) — The telephone rang and a familiar, slightly hoarse voice said: "This is Bill Clinton. May I speak to John Clark?" Yes, that was President Clinton on the phone, a White House spokeswoman said Tuesday. But sorry, wrong number — and wrong voter — Austin Sullivan told the president. Mr. Sullivan, 79, a political conservative, said Mr. Clinton explained Monday that he was in the San Francisco Bay area and was trying to reach an old friend. He apologised profusely for disturbing Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan said Mr. Clinton also thanked him for his support and said: "Thank you for voting for me." "Oh, I didn't vote for you," Mr. Sullivan responded. But he said he was happy with what Mr. Clinton is trying to accomplish and added: "I'm praying for you." "Well, thank you for that," he said Mr. Clinton replied. "He had a nice visit," the former haberdasher said of his caller. "I asked him how I was ever going to get people to believe I had really talked to him and he said he didn't know. But I could tell by the voice and the way he talked, it really was the president." White House Deputy Press Secretary Lorraine Vokes confirmed Tuesday that Mr. Clinton tried to call an old friend during a break in his trip to the San Jose area but got Mr. Sullivan instead.

Thai navy drafts man who lost leg

BANGKOK (R) — A 22-year-old man who lost his right leg after being shot by soldiers during political violence in Thailand last May has been drafted by the navy, the Nation newspaper reported. "I don't understand why they want my son in the navy now that he is physically handicapped," Viraphol Panthongthorn's mother was quoted as telling an Interior Ministry official. Having reported to a naval base on Feb. 1, as ordered, the young man had so far been kept in hospital, his mother said. Scores of demonstrators were killed and hundreds wounded last May when Thai soldiers fired into crowds demonstrating for a restoration of democracy after a general who had never stood in an election was selected as prime minister.

Ex-child star wins million-dollar lawsuit

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — A California judge awarded former TV child star Gary Coleman more than \$1 million in a suit in which he accused his parents and ex-manager of squandering his money. Coleman's lawyer said, Coleman, who played Arnold in the series Different Strokes, sued his parents, W.G. and Edmonia Sue Coleman, and former business manager Anita Dethomas in 1989. Coleman's lawyer said California Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki ruled that Coleman's parents had been wrongfully paid \$1,280,522 in excessive commissions, salaries, fees and pension distributions between 1982 and 1987.

Florida fights 'state of terror' tag

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (R) — Headlines about recent attacks on travellers prompted Florida's governor Tuesday to form a task force to fight back the problem and the perception. British tabloids had issued tips on "how to survive in the Florida jungle" and had called Florida the "state of terror." "Tourists are not in any extraordinary danger in Florida," Governor Lawton Chiles told tourism and police officials. About 40 million people visit the subtropical state each year, making tourism its leading industry. Police statistics show just 7,000 were victims of violent crime last year.

Di 'to make point' in Nepal

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Diana is to make an official visit to Nepal next week, her first such trip abroad since separating from the heir to the throne Prince Charles. Buckingham Palace said Tuesday. A palace spokesman said the 31-year-old princess would arrive in the Himalayan kingdom on March 2 for five days of duties mostly linked with British aid work. She will be accompanied by a member of the British government, Overseas Development Minister Baroness Chalker, in what some newspaper commentators see as an attempt to show the retains top royal status despite her broken marriage.



Sir Anthony Hopkins goes to the palace

LONDON (AP) — Sir Anthony Hopkins went to Buckingham Palace Tuesday to receive his knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II. Sir Anthony, who won an Oscar last year for his portrayal of Hannibal Lecter in The Silence of the Lambs, was awarded the knighthood in the queen's New Year honours list. "I am a little bit numb at the moment," he said immediately after receiving the honour. "I didn't expect this and I hope I don't sound falsely modest, but I am very honoured," the 55-year-old Welshman said. "I can't quite take it in, it does not make much sense to me at the moment. Sir Anthony was made a CBE, or Commander of the British Empire in 1987. The photograph shows Sir Anthony and Lady Hopkins posing for a photo outside the Buckingham Palace (AFP photo)

IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM "BCCI DEPOSITORS"

A large meeting was held and attended by all depositors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) which is owned by Abu Dhabi government represented by the ruling family in the emirate and their delegates.

The depositors hereby announce to all parties concerned whether from the bank's owners or liquidators as well as all governments concerned with the bank's liquidation that there will be no solution to this crisis unless by full reimbursement of all our deposits and rights registered in the bank's records. Whatever compensation plans they propose and whatever ways used to change and conceal the facts, it would never make us abandon the claim of our right using all possible ways and means which eventually would return to us our full rights.

The reason for depositing our funds with them was our confidence that the bank's owners were honest, financially capable, responsible and could not cause us any harm. What we see and hear now of the behaviour of those in charge of the crisis is regrettable and disgusting. They had dissipated and wasted our deposits and money in front of civilised world's eyes and within the most developed and modern means of money management in capitals and world financial centres.

We hereby request all governments and institutions to back us and announce that we shall never give up our rights no matter how long it takes. We are always busy thinking of ways and means to recover our rights and we know well how to recover such rights from those concerned.

Depositors Committee

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

21 killed in Zaire soldiers' raid

KINSHASA (R) — Elite Zairean troops shot dead 21 people in a revenge shooting attack to avenge the death of a comrade, Western diplomats said Wednesday. City officials put the death toll at 10 in Monday's rampage in the Kinshasa suburb of Kingasani while state radio spoke of "several" deaths at a number of points in the tense capital.

Azeri president sacks commander

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's President Abulfaz Elchibey has sacked the military commander blamed for a series of defeats in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Interfax News Agency said. Surat Guseinov, commander of Azeri forces in the north of the enclave, was removed after his troops surrendered at least 18 villages to ethnic Armenian forces over the last three weeks. Interfax said the Armenians seized the crucial Sarsang Dam, 20 kilometres north of the Karabakh capital Stepanakert. Monday night and were moving towards the regional centre of Martakert, held by Azeri forces. The agency also quoted Armenian officials in Yerevan as saying Armenians in Karabakh had repulsed an Azeri attack in the south of the enclave and destroyed a base in Azerbaijan's Agdam region near the enclave's eastern border.

Georgia wants Russian troops out

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, raising the stakes in his country's dispute with Moscow, demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops from two Black Sea provinces and threatened total mobilisation. In a speech to parliament, the former Soviet foreign minister accused the Russian top brass of planning to establish dominance in Abkhazia and Adzharia through supporting separatist forces there. He said Russian troops left over from the Soviet era should leave the two Georgian provinces. "Otherwise we will have to announce a total mobilisation and rise up with weapons in our hands to defend the country," Mr. Shevardnadze focused on remarks by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, made during an interview shown on Russian Television late Monday. ("Georgia's Black Sea coast) is an area of strategic importance for the Russian army," Mr. Grachev said. "We... must take every measure to ensure that our troops remain there, otherwise we will lose the Black Sea."

Scores 'slaughtered' by Tajik rebels

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — Tajikistan's leader accused Islamic rebels of killing 118 government troops in an ambush, and a news agency reported Wednesday that fierce fighting was continuing in the mountains east of the capital. Troops loyal to the pro-Communist government forced the rebels out of Dushanbe late last year after months of fighting that began in May. But the rebels — a coalition of Islamic, Tajik nationalist and self-described democratic forces — are widely expected to start a spring offensive. Thousands of people have been killed in the civil war, which has its roots in territorial and clan rivalries that intensified since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Tajik Television Tuesday night quoted parliament speaker Emmomali Rakhimov as saying the 118 government troops were greeted warmly by local residents in the Garm region east of Dushanbe, invited to a tea-house, then "treacherously slaughtered."

Up to a million flee Rwanda fighting

KIGALI (R) — Up to a million people have fled northern Rwanda to escape fresh fighting between rebels and government forces this month, relief workers said Wednesday. "There are close to a million people on the move," said Walter Stocker, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team which is leading efforts to deal with the refugee crisis in the tiny central African state. He said hordes of peasants had been trekking southwards since guerrillas of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) broke a seven-month-old ceasefire and attacked army positions in the northern Ruhengeri and Byumba districts on Feb. 8. Relief sources said government forces had set up roadblocks to prevent waves of destitute refugees from flooding into the capital Kigali, but about 200,000 people are scattered in the hills 15 kilometres north of the city.

5 skiers found alive in Colorado

ASPEN, Colorado (R) — All five back-country skiers missing in a Colorado avalanche since last week were found alive Tuesday after rescuers had all but given up hope of finding survivors. After enduring three nights of freezing weather, the last three missing skiers, two women and a man, were plucked by a helicopter from a snow-covered mountain near Aspen and rushed to a hospital in the affluent ski resort, authorities said. The two women, both suffering from frostbite, had to be carried from the helicopter to a waiting ambulance after landing at Aspen's airport, a spokeswoman for the Pitkin county Sheriff's department said.

Rebel aide calls for truce in Angola

LISBON (R) — A leading member of the rebel movement UNITA called for a truce in Angola for government forces and not UNITA which attacked Huambo, she said.

Peace accords signed in 1991 to end a 16-year civil war in Angola between UNITA and the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) collapsed when Mr. Savimbi rejected his defeat in September elections.

Ms. Roque left the Angolan capital Luanda at the beginning of February after being held by the government in protective custody at a hotel for three months.

"The ferocious and destructive fighting in Huambo and other parts of Angola contribute nothing towards peace and democracy. But it was government forces and not UNITA which attacked Huambo," she said.

Full-scale fighting returned in late December, and Huambo, once Angola's second largest city and UNITA headquarters, has become the centrepiece of the renewed conflict.

U.N. repatriates 300,000 Cambodian refugees

BANGKOK (Agencies) — A total of 300,000 Cambodian refugees have returned home from Thailand with United Nations assistance since the repatriation began in March 1992, a U.N. statement received Wednesday said.

The 300,000th refugee was among a family of six that left Tuesday for Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, the statement said.

Sar Lay, 37, his wife Sen Arth and their four sons said they wanted to run a restaurant in Phnom Penh, as they did at the Srae 2 refugee camp. The couple had lived in the camp since 1980, where their two youngest sons were born.

U.N. officials presented them with gifts and a commemorative plaque.

More than 60,000 Cambodian refugees remain in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, but they are expected to be repatriated before the Cambodian elections in late May.

The United Nations provides refugees with aid including food for 400 days.

The refugees fled the war caused by Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in late 1978. They began returning home after Cambodia's warring factions signed a 1991 peace accord that brought a U.N. peacekeeping force into the country to prepare for the elections.

Their country remains in turmoil, however, because of violence blamed on both the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and the government.

Meanwhile, Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has offered rare praise for the courage of United Nations peacekeepers just weeks after beating the world body's Cambodia mission.

The prince, who heads a reconciliation council of Cambodia's four factions, enclosed the message of praise for the blue berets in a letter to U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi, UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt said Wednesday.

The prince had special mention for those injured by landmine blasts in a country littered with the deadly ordnance of decades of civil war and political turmoil. "Landmine explosions... (have caused) very severe injuries among the ranks of the distinguished and courageous officers and other members of UNTAC," the prince wrote in his letter.

U.S. civil rights trial hits a snag

LOS ANGELES (R) — The trial of four white Los Angeles police officers accused of violating black activist Rodney King's rights ran into a roadblock following allegations that a black juror privately accused the defence of trying to keep blacks off the panel.

Lawyers for three of the four officers asked for a mistrial during a closed-door hearing called by U.S. District Judge John Davies to investigate the charges.

Opening arguments in the racially charged case had been scheduled to begin Wednesday, but lawyers said they would not now begin until Thursday at the earliest. A more likely date was Friday, or even next Monday, they said.

The 12-member jury, consisting of two blacks, one Hispanic and nine whites, was sworn in Monday.

Ira Salzman, representing Police Sergeant Stacey Koon, told Judge Davies in open court Tuesday morning he received a call earlier in the day from a former prospective juror, a reserve police officer bumped from the panel at the prosecution's request.

The officer said a black woman now on the panel had said the defence was trying to exclude blacks from the jury.

"I cannot now accept this jury as constituted" unless the black juror was questioned further, Ms. Salzman said.

The racial composition of the jury is considered crucial because Sgt. Koon, former Los Angeles Police Officer Timothy Wind,